INSIDE: WHAT ABOUT NEIL HAMILTON? MORE BAD NEWS FOR THE MAN WHO TOOK THE BISCUIT. ON THE STUMP: 'PREMIER' BLAIR

Taking from Desmond Pitcher and giving to Poplar Joe: Labour's big idea?





stands for the intended beneficiaries. He lives in Poplar, east London, left school at 16 and has had more than one job. His

fat-cats to finance a £3bn programme to take 250,000 nn-

Exchequer yesterday, But on the first full day of ternative threatened the creation of an alienated would be hit and how heavily, under-class: "If the Conservatives had come up with proposais such as this, people would have said. This is a rev-

A Labour brief on the jobcreation policy said: "We must. never again see a generation of people abandoned, to earn nothing and learn nothing." But Kenneth Clarke, the

QUICKLY

BBC board 'amateurs' demned the BBC Board of Governors as a bunch of part-time amateurs threatening the fu-ture of the Corporation Page 6

Unemployment worry Unemployment is the biggest worry of the British, according to a new survey, although concerns about education and the health service mark them out from the rest of Europe.

German rampage

The German army's long march to international respectability suffered a reverse in the small town of Detmold on Monday might, as 10 of its soldiers marked out for peace-keeping duty staged a mini-pogrom. Shearing Wogs out of Germany, the con-scripts in combat helmets rampaged through the centre in search of foreigners, attacking a 16-year-old Italian boy and two Torkish youths with baseball bats, knives and spades Page 13

CIA nominee backs out The surprise withdrawal of Anthony Lake, nominee to head the Central Intelligence Agency, is a large embarrassment for President Clinton, another body-blow for the demonstised CIA - but above all proof of how the campaign fundraising row has bred a bitter partisanship that is poison-ing politics and government in the United States. Page 14

said last night: "The latest windfall tax hasce again shows that Labour are not fit to

"Instead of saying which companies would pay the windemployed young people off the fall tax, Labour are playing an dole was condemned out of abourd game, giving journalists hand by the Chancellor of the a clue and daring them to work

> clean on which companies leaves millions of shareholders Without this basic information, people have no chance of workwould hit their own invest-

The conclusion from

swer the key questions on tax." Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, announced at Labour's election press conference that Mr Blair would be appointing a new Cabinet minister with responsibility for employment and labour-market xibility, which would include Social Chapter negotiations

with European partners.

But the party also prompted the Chancellor's outrage by defor the one-off £3bn windfall levy, which - depending on the definition of excess profits and pensioners in the dark. could apply to British Telecom, water, gas and electricity companies, the British Airports Auing out how the windfall tax thority and privatised railway companies, but not British Air-

ments or pensions. . However, in the absence of Labour's windfall-tax fiasco is: a definitive list of Labour tarclear: you can't trust a shadow. gets for the tax, Mr Clarke said chancellor who refuses to an- at the Conservatives' election

INSIDE

Election countdown, pages 8, 9, 10 Andrew Marr, page 19 Letters, page 17

press conference: "How can you trust a shadow prime minister and a shadow chancellor who will not answer the straight question about which companies will pay the tax, when they

He also attacked Labour's job-creation package. "Gordon Brown says he will create 250,000 jobs by a one-off tax. That is a dreadfully oldfashioned method of claiming to create jobs.

"Since the day when Gordon Brown first promised to create 250,000 places on schemes for young people, we have seen 400,000 extra jobs created in the

enterprise economy." had been reduced by almost 1 million since its December1992 peak, but he was unable

to tell the Independent whether fallen since Mr Major became Prime Minister in 1990. Unemployment 1,778,000 in November 1990. when Mr Major took office, and it had not fallen below that fig-

Ian McCartney, Labour's employment spokesman, said later: "The truth is that the only jobs Tory ministers really care about are their own. In a prepared statement on

policy, Mr Clarke said at his press conference: "Today. Britain is booming, without going bust.

We have unlocked Britain's

potential and over the next five years we intend to make sure ritain realises that potential ... "By contrast, Labour's great leap backwards into social democracy would put Britain's future at risk.

reality, a holiday from history which this nation cannot afwas ford."

Later, Mr Blair opened up a second battle-front when he used Commons question time to tackle Mr Major on healthauthority deficits.

With health a prime concern for the voters. Mr Blair said it was a "tragedy and a disgrace" that after 18 years of Tory government, waiting-lists were up.

the Government's economic hospitals were suffering from cash and staff shortages and non-emergency surgery was being cancelled.

The Prime Minister pointed out that only the Tories were committed to increasing funding, year-on-year, through the next Parliament, and he added: Labour may have set up the health service but we have built

Labour later issued a list of which the Conservatives' claimed "real growth" in bud-gets for 1997-98 would not cov-

er the 1996-97 deficit. The authorities falling into that crisis category were: Bradford: Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow: Leeds: North and East Devon: North Cumbria: North Essex: Wakefield: West Surrey; and Wiltshire.

Mr Major said that Labour s figures were blown out of all

Still time to register

There are only two days left until the voting registration dead-

Electoral registration offices of councils around the country will be open until the close of business tomorrow. To register, potential votproof of an address (from a gas or phone bill, for example) which dates back to October

proportion, that the forecast deficit was a small proportion of the overall NHS budget.

The last Prime Minister's question time of the Parliament will be staged tomorrow. with the current Parliament rising for good on Friday.

Thirty-two simple ways to describe a woman (if you'll pardon our French)

John Lichfield

Here is your first lesson in the French that they do not teach m school. Even in France. Elle est vraiment Muroroa. Elle a des trés grands airbags. In the youth slang of the French banlieus, or inner suburbs, this translates approximately as: She is a real bombshell. She has enormous boobs."

French is a sublimely beau-tiful language, so beautiful that some French people believe it should be wrapped in tissue pa-per and hidden away in a draw-

China's People's Liberation

Army (PLA) has scored a de-

cisive victory over the British

Army. The battleground, nev-

er before traversed by the two

armed forces, was a rugby pitch in Hong Kong where the PLA triumphed by 12 points to 7. The Chinese will arrive in

Hong Kong in three months

time, replacing the British as the garrison. Could the British side. largely composed of members

Stephen Vines

Hong Kong

er. This is not the view of Jean-Pierre Goudaillier, professor of linguistics at the Sorbonne, who has published the first dictionary of words torn directly from the mouths, the rap songs and the graffitti of the banlieus of the

Mr Goudaillier says his pur-pose is not to judge whether or not French is being deformed by such words. He says he undertook the work in order to study the "dynamics" of a an-

"evolving language."
But the professor has clearly fallen in love with the bewil-

Watch, have been diplomatically

letting the incoming military

battalion's commanding offi-cer Lieutenant Colonel Alascair

Louden. "We wanted to win - you could see by the tackles."

All the worse for them, then.

China is hardly one of the

world's leading rugby-playing nations, though the PLA is re-

ported to regard the sport as

good training. The Chinese

side was drawn from the PLA

Absolutely not, insisted the

side score a victory?

contemporary youth slang in urban France, drawn partly from English, partly from the old French argot, but increasingly from Arabic and North and

West African languages.
The dictionary is called Comment, tu tchatches, which translates, rather loosely as: "How you can gab" or "How you can rap." The verb tchatcher meaning to "talk without saying very much", derived from a Spanish word via Algerian Arabic - is at the heart of life in the violence-haunted and job-free suburbs, according to Mr

People's army scores victory over British

the fitter team, though Col

Louden thought not. But "they

have two million men to choose

from, we have just five hun-

It is indeed true that the

British garrison is being run

down to a shadow of its former

self, though it is not clear how

many men China intends to sta-

For while the British and

Chinese troops were battling it

out on a green field in the cen-

dred", he declared.

tion in Hong Kong.

The greatest badge of honour roa after the site of the French for a young suburb-dweller is to nuclear bomb tests. A not esbe a good tchatcheur or fluteur

or pipeauteur.
The book records eight different ways of saving bloke: hamster, gadjo, keum, lascar. nombo, payo, raclo and scarla. But, doubtless reflecting a brutally male-oriented culture, there are 32 ways of saying woman with varying degrees of politeness: meuf. beleue, caille,

tasse, gadji, gavali, gazelle ... and so on. A beautiful woman is a Muro-

stationing of Liberation Army

troops in the colony prior to

the transfer of sovereignty on

sporting encounter may there-

fore be seen as something more

than symbolic, although both

sides were keen to suggest that

it was nothing more than a game

- which would make it about as

non-political as the Olympic

The victory in yesterday's

charnelle, clira, dama, damoche,

djig, fatma, fébosse, feumeu, fil-

pecially well-endowed woman is a Findus, after the company which makes frozen fish fast food. Her opposite would have

large airbags, ananas, hzazels or

Here is an example of a complete sentence collected by Mr Goudailler direct from the banlieu: "Cette meuf, elle est tellement maigre, elle a pas d'airhags, qu'on peut la faxer."
This translates, rather lame-

ly, as "that bird is so thin. She has no boobs. You could fax

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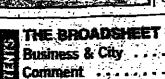
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of the 1st Battalion of the Black Sports Institute in Guangzhou, News 2-10 THE TABLOID



Losing battle: A Brit is tackled



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currently one of the few teams in the country. Seasoned rugby watchers declared them to be

30 June.



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significant shorts

Legal aid victory in battle for equal right to ride

Two women lighting a court battle to be part of a centuries-old all-male riding festival have been granted legal aid. Mandy Graham, 21, and Ashley Simpson, 24, are challenging a decision to ban them from last year's Hawick Common Riding Festival, saying the decision was unlawful under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

They have already been granted £2,500 by the Equal Opportunities Commission to proceed with their case. And yesterday Sheriff Brian Donald was told that they had also been granted legal aid for their battle. The sheriff was hearing legal arguments from lawyers representing the women and last year's riding committee at Jedburgh sheriff court in the Scottish Borders. After listening to six hours of argument, he reserved judgment on the matter. He is expected to issue a written decision in the next few weeks and could recommend that the matter goes to a full hearing with witnesses being called.

Hepatitis victim asked to give blood

Ireland's blood transfusion authority sought a blood donation from a woman diagnosed two years earlier as infected with the hepatitis C virus by one of the service's own plasma products. The revelation yesterday came just days after a damning report was published into the scandal of how 970 mothers were infected by plasma made from 1976 donations from a woman known to have jaundice.

Rock star speaks up for boat victim



Pete Townshend of The Who told a High Court judge in London yesterday of the 'exceptional" style and virtuosity of a saxophonist whose career was destroyed by the Marchioness disaster.

Jo Wells was rescued after spending three minutes under water when the River Thames pleasure cruiser collided with the sand dredger, Bowbelle, in August 1989. She escaped with minor injuries, but her

"glittering" life performing "at the high level" with top rocks acts including Tears for Fears and the Communards came to an end.

The owners of the Bowbelle and Marchioness have accepted liability for the tragedy, but are contesting the amount of compensation, claiming that Ms Wells was burned out before the

accident and had not played professionally for 18 months.

Townshend (below), who employed her as a session musician in 1986, told the judge yesterday that Ms Wells could have looked forward to a career at the top of her profession earning up to

"Jo really stuck in my mind. She was absolutely exceptional both technically and imaginatively.

"She was the best soprano saxophone player I have ever heard in pop an unassuming figure who burst into life when she was playing. "I was quite intimidated by her, how good she was." he said.

Family says Congo death 'stupid'

The brother of a British surgeon shot dead in the Congo said last night that the family were reeling last night at the "stupidity" of the tragedy. Ben Dalton. 29, from south London, was gunned down after a row with a policeman. As his parents flew out to the Congo. Mr Dalton's brother Will. 26, said that the family hoped that the killer would be found. But he dismissed as "unbelievable" a suggestion that the row with the policeman had been sparked by his brother, on a holiday trip with his wife and British friends, refusing to pay a small bribe.

Africa tale wins Orwell prize

A revealing story of childhood and adolescence in southern Africa during a time of acute social and political crisis has won the 1996 Orwell Prize for literature. Peter Godwin's Mukiwa: a White Boy in Africa, describes childhood in Rhodesia, youth as an officer in the British South Africa police and adulthood as a young journalist in Zimbabwe. The Orwell Prize judges called it a "shrewd and wry examination of the conflict and confusion inherent in growing up in late twentieth century Africa". Members of the George Orwell Memorial Fund, who have hosted the £1,000 prize since 1992, presented the awards last night at London's Reform Club.

Drivers told to run trains past body

Up to twenty drivers were ordered to take their trains past the body of a young woman who was lying between the tracks, it has been revealed. Union officials claimed drivers were "traumatised" by the incident on Great Eastern's Shenfield to Southend line in Essex on 6 February this year.

It was nearly four hours before her body was removed. Aslef general secretary Lew Adams claimed that trains were not stopped because this would have meant Great Eastern would have faced penalty payments. But a Great Eastern spokeswoman said the company kept running the trains to avoid rush-hour delays.

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Sid Shaw: 'Elvis was up there somewhere smiling today' (Photograph: Peter Macdiannid)

The King may be dead, but his name can live forever

The right of a British citizen to name his son, his dog or his goldfish "Elvis" was enshrined in a High Court judgment yesterday when an East End fan of the late singer won an historic victory over the powerful Pres-ley estate. Sid Shaw, proprietor of Elvisty Yours, in Shored-ritch High Street, was last night wiggling his pelvis in celebration of a judge's decision to allow him to use the Elvis name to sell memorabilia.

Mr Shaw had taken on the giant Elvis Presley Enterprises of America - headed by Priscilla Presley - to appeal against a decision by the Trades Marks Registry to allow only EPE to use the words Elvis, Elvis Presley or the signature of the dead singer.

Mr Justice Laddie could not agree with the registry. Even if Elvis Presley was still alive," he speculated. "He would not be entitled to stop a fan from naming his son, his dog or goldfish, his car or his house 'Elvis' or 'Elvis Presley', simply by reason of the fact that it was the name given to him at birth."

Mr Shaw, who set up his shop in 1979, suggested af-ter the hearing that "the King" had been on his side. "Elvis was up there somewhere smiling today," he said.

range of 400 Eivis products found their way from east London to the gates of Graceland, Eivis's home in Mem-phis, Tennessee, where they were being sold to tourists. EPE, which is based at Graceland and Innough Prisch la is the legal infleritor of the Ehris Presiev estate, took exception to the products. In 1991, EPE registered the names, despite objections from Mr Shaw who claimed that, as result, EPE had a virtual monopoly on Elvis mem orabilia throughout the world. He decided to ask a Fligh Court judge to decide if anyone could claim exclusive

rights to use the names.
At the hearing, Peter Prescott, for EPE, argued that when people bought souvenins of their harpes thay want-

ed them to come from a "genuine sounce".

But the judge said: "dust as Elvis Pressey do not own:
his name so as to be able to prevent all and any uses:
of it by third parties, so EPE can have no greater rights."
Elvis Impersonators also had reason to celebrate as the judge added! "Pressey and food own his appealance,
for example, during his life he could not prevent a tan tron having a tattoor a drawing on his carrying his life the milester is served. as up there somewhere smiling today," he said. like the musician, simply by the basis that it was his air. The bitter wrangle began when some of Mr Shaw's pearance white was desirable.

After 30 years, Damon follows father to Palace

Damon Hill, who followed his father's tracks to become world motor racing champion, yesterday re-traced Graham Hill's footsteps to Buckingham Palace to receive an OBE from the Queen.

Indeed, the last time Damon was at Buckingham Palace, he was just seven-years-old and sat in the ballroom to see his father receive the same honour. Graham Hill then pinned the medal on his young son (right)

Yesterday, almost 30 years later, it was his turn to be honoured in his own right. "The room seems smaller than I remember it." he

"I'm very, very proud to be honoured by the Queen and by the country in this way. It's an extremely precious thing."

The Queen was "up to speed" with her Formula 1 knowledge. said Hill. "She appreciated that it was a close finish last year. And she also knows that it is going to be a bit tougher this year. Damon, who won the 1996 world driver's championship with

the Williams team, is now strug-

gling to return to the top flight with the Yamaha Arrows team. Just nine days ago, his Yamaha car failed to start in the Australian Grand Prix at Melbourne. "We're going to Brazil next week for the next grand prix and

looking forward to doing better," he said. The former England and Surrey cricketer, Sir Alec Bedser, was knighted by the Queen.

Accompanied by his twin brother Eric, 78-year-old Sir Alec said; "It's a long way from walking through the gates of the Oval in 1938, as a member of the ground

Soldier's family on sad pilgrimage

The parents of a young soldier shot dead by the IRA in Northern Ireland yesterday made a painful pilgrimage to the spot where he

John and Rita Restorick fought back tears as they laid flowers by the checkpoint outside the military base at Bessbrook in South Armagh where their son, Stephen, was murdered last month. Clutching each other's hands tightly, they placed their floral tribute among dozens of others left by local peo-

They were accompanied on their journey from Peterborough by their other son, Mark, 26, and eight uncles, aunts and cousins.

Lance Bombardier Restorick, 23, of the 3rd Battalion Royal Horse Artillery was killed by a single shot fired at long range by a hidden sniper as he manned the check-

point

The Restoricks were escorted by their son's commanding officer, Lt Col Matthew Sykes, and Battery Commander Major Mark Vincent. Afterwards, inside the heavily-

fortified base, they attended a service to dedicate a marble memorial

ENVIRONMENT

Government warned of water shortage ahead

The Government's Environment Agency warned yesterday that low groundwater levels could lead to hosepipe bans and other restrictions on water use in parts of south-east England and East Anglia this summer. In a drought briefing for the Department of the Environment, the agency said water tables in several areas which depend on boreholes for their supply were still depressed, to record levels in some, after a low rainfall period which started in

The shortfall over the two-year period amounts to four months of missed rain. While February brought a welcome deluge with well above average rainfall, March so far has had significantly below the

The agency has asked water companies to submit detailed plans on how they intend to manage supplies. Few companies have so far applied to take extra water above their licensed level from rivers and groundwater in the summer but several have already been granted permission to take extra river water in the winter, using it to refili reservoirs.

Groundwater levels are drawn down more slowly than reservoirs during dry periods but they also take longer to recover. Underground aquifers of porous rock provide more than two-thirds of tapwater in southern England, almost half the water for East Anglia and more than a third of the Thames valley area's

Young face dance culture danger

A quarter of young people aged 18 to 25 are exposing themselves to noise levels that can cause permanent hearing damage, an expert warned yesterday. Clubs where deafening music is played for hours on end were the chief danger, accounting for two-thirds of the noise sources, said Professor Adrian Davis. Personal stereos and other noisy leisure activities, like shooting, were also a risk. Professor Davis, from the Medical Research Council Institute of Hearing Research, Nottingham, is carrying out research into the effect of dance culture noise on the young. He expects to publish the results at an international conference on hearing loss next

the results at an international conference on hearing loss next

In the 1980s, between 6 and 7 per cent of young people were exposed to leisure noise loud enough to damage hearing, said the professor. In the 1990s this

proportion had risen to as high as 24 per cent. Professor Davis said his research had "disappointedly" not been able to show that young clubbers were hard of bearing. But a quarter of them suffered continual ringing in the ears, and they were likely to hasten the onset of deafne that is a normal part of

ageing. "They will be more susceptible to the ravages of age than other people," he said.



Bypass cost to nature is too high

A Government agency yesterday expressed concern about the impact of the proposed Salisbury bypass. In a report, the Highways Agency has backed English Nature, the Government's wildlife advisor, in saying that the "impacts and the risk [of the bypass] are

unacceptably high from a nature conservation point of view."

The agency has identified two alternative routes across the Avon Valley, south of Salisbury, Wiltshire, which would avoid the need to take land from East Harnham Meadows, a newly designated site of special scientific interest.

The report was ordered by Sir George Young, the Secretary of State for Transport, and John Gummer, the Secretary of State for the Environment, last October after the Government decided it was "minded to approve" the 11-mile bypass. It will now consultation with interested parties.

Plans for the bypass, which would ruin the image - immortalised by Constable - of Salisbury Cathedral viewed across the water meadows, have been widely condemned by organisations including Friends of the Earth (FoE) and the Countryside Commission, the Government's official advisors on the countryside.

Upward mobility becoming rarer

The chances of climbing up the income scale from a low-paying job have shrunk dramatically during the past two decades. Figures on the earnings of individuals tracked over time show that fewer than one in four on low pay at the start of their working life in 1979 had reached the top half of the earnings distribution by 1994.

Only half had made any advance up the ladder at all, according to new research published this morning. The rest were either still

at the bottom of the pile or had become unemployed. The research, based on figures published by the Department of Social Security, challenges Tory claims that greater income

inequality has been offset by greater upward wage mobility. Richard Dickens of the Loudon School of Economics, writing for the Employment Policy Institute, says the claims ignore both moves into unemployment and the fact that most people whose incomes do rise do not move very far up the scale. Diane Coyle Business Comment, page 21

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British biggest worriers in Europe on schools

Unemployment is the biggest worry of the British, according to a new survey, although concerns about education and the health service mark them out from the rest of Europe.

The most-cited domestic concerns in yesterday's Mori poll "What's worrying Britain", are those which will top the campaigns of the political parties in the run up to the election – unemployment, crime, education, the health service, the economy and the European Union.

But results for the Europe-wide survey for Population

Concern and Marie Stopes In-ternational, one of the largest of its kind ever undertaken show clear contrasts between the fears of Britons and those

Nearly half of Britons (48 per cent) gave unemployment as their biggest concern - signifi-cantly less than the 59 per cent of people across Europe. Fears about jobs are most prominent in Finland (85 per cent), France and Sweden (78 per cent), and Germany and Spain (more than -70 per cent).

But law and order was a much bigger concern than elsewhere in Europe, cited by al-

most a third (32 per cent) of British respondents compared with 20 per cent across the Continent. Education is also a much bigger worry for Britons than elsewhere in Europe, with 30 per cent of Britons naming it as their main concern, compared to just 6 per cent else-where. The state of schools does not make the EU top ten

But it is responses to the questions about global con-cerns which have worried the two charities behind the survey. The issue of population increase is the eight most pressing concern for Europeans, would you say were the two or three most important problems facing Britain today?

while related issues such as reproductive health and rights and pean average women's rights scored very low,

with Britain below the Euro-

العكذا من الأصل

campaign to raise awareness about population issues and the rights of all people to access reproductive health care and good family planning," said Pa-tricia Hindmarsh of Marie

Stopes International. Population growth scored 12 per cent in Britain and the EU, but related issues like reproductive health, gender rights and adolescent sexuality are rated by little more than one per cent of the representative sample of 937 British adults. Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases get a 14 per cent global concern rating across the EU, compared

a sustained European-wide with just 3 per cent in Britain. Child sex abuse worries 2 per cent of Britons, almost the lowest figure in the EU. The proportion is highest (18 per cent) in Belgium, scene of high-level scandals over paedophile rings. Wendy Thomas, director of

Population Concern, said the figures showed that a welcome 71 per cent of Britons backed more neral family planning advice for developing countries.

But the proportion seeing the need for young people in those countries to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancy was only an "alarming" 42 per cent.
"With close to half the pop-

ulation of many poor countries under the age of 15, the neglect of young people's sexual and reproductive health worldwide is a crisis in the making that will hamstring other development efforts," she said.

Topics which worry the British less than their neighbours across the Channel include the economy, drug abuse, race relations and AIDS. Two out of five Britons and Europeans agree that war and civil conflict is the main problem. Environment and pollution, famine, poverty and unem-ployment also get high ratings across the EU.

Publishing wizard fights to rescue his exploded books

Tom Stevenson City Editor

Dorling Kindersley, whose illustrated books and, more recently, CD-Roms have delighted children and their thankful parents for two decades, has become the latest innovative British company to discover that beautiful products alone will not conquer America.

Citing a flood of critical acclaim for its books and compact discs, Dorling Kindersley insisted yesterday its 23-year success story would continue, but it admitted that problems in the United States had pushed it off track after years of rapid growth.

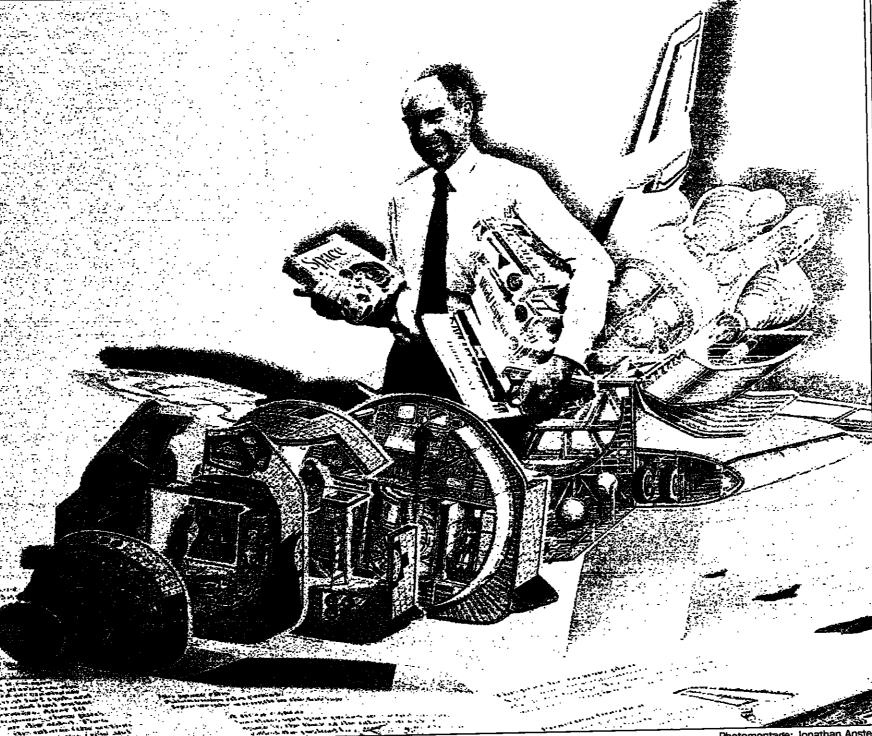
Echoes of previous high-flyers such as Sock Shop that crashed to earth in the US have sent investors in the company rushing for the exit and Dorling Kindersley joins a long list of stars over here that have failed to shine over there. Peter Kindersley, the company's multi-mil-lionaire founder, remained defauntly positive

vesterday despite causing constemation in the City with a warning that American profits, which have driven the company's dramatic recent growth, were flagging.

Shrugging off a fall of almost £100m m his family's private fortune over the past year, thanks to a collapse in the value of its shares in DK. Mr Kindersley painted a bright future which the flow of middle class favourites like The Royal Horticultural Society's Plant English of the Royal Horticultural Society's Plant English cyclopedia and this year's star launch, an interactive children's CD-Rom encyclopedia,

্ৰত্ত will continue unabated. Dorling Kindersley, which despite becoming one of Britain's biggest companies still operates from a collection of elegant town houses in London's Covent Garden, proved vesterday it is better at pleasing children than the City's unsentimental fund managers. It's shares which cost 645p a year ago were worth only 270p yesterday after the company told investors for the second time in three months that its profits would be worse than expected.

But the company insisted its problems were one-off blips and nothing to do with its products which remain popular. It blamed the soaring pound for reducing the value of its overseas profits and an upheaval among US booksellers which has seen giant chains like



Barnes & Noble reducing their stocks of books and CD-Roms to try and stem heavy losses.
Founded in 1974 by Peter Kindersley and
his partner Christopher Dorling, DK began

by creating high-quality practical reference books, almost exclusively for adults. From the outset, the company's books stood out from their rivals by focusing on elegantly presented images at the expense of text and immediare public acclaim made a handful of titles

in the 1970s million-copy best-sellers.

DK's most successful book to date, the Family Medical Guide has sold more than 6 million copies in 15 languages and visits to

cities around the world have become almost unthinkable for many travellers without a wellthumbed copy of the relevant Eyewitness Guide. The series, which now runs to 56 titles, has sold 18 million copies in 39 languages.

In 1987, Dorling moved into children's books and for 10 years has made learning a pleasure for thousands of absorbed children and their relieved (if considerably poorer) parents. From The Ultimate Dinosaur Sticker Book to PB Bear's Birthday Party, DK has effectively cornered a hugely lucrative market.

But the real excitement, according to Mr Kindersley, lies in what he describes as "the

digital future". For a man who has made a fortune out of the printed word he exudes enthusiasm for the interactive PC world in which his books' images spring to life. After three years of development, DK will this year launch its latest 3D Children's Encyclopedia, whose half a billion words, maps, pictures, video clips and music are expected to astonish any par-

ent able to get near the family computer.

Alan Buckingham, who heads DK's multi-media operation, believes the CD-Rom market is set to explode in the next few years. In 1994, he says, there were around 12 million personal computers with CD-Rom dri-

ves, three-quarters of them in America. By 2000 there will be an estimated 97 million. Peter Kindersley dismisses recent problems in America as a distraction from long-term trends that will ensure the DK phenomenon

continues unchecked. He said: "Who would have thought the Learning Channel would be the fastest-growing cable channel in the US, or that the Discovery Channel would be sold in 122 markets. Globally more and more people are re-discovering learning and that being a self-educator can bring great benefits."

Shares crash, page 20

'Crash' is passed for uncut release

David Lister Arts News Editor

The highly controversial film. Crush, which depicts characters being sexually aroused by graphic car crashes, was yes-terday passed for release uncut by the British Board of Film Classification.

The board's director James Ferman said the "unusual and disturbing film" was neither illegal nor harmful. One of the characters in the film is disabled from a car crash. But the BBFC said it had showed the film to a top lawyer, a forensic psychologist and an audience of dis-abled people before granting it an 18 certificate.

David Cronenberg's adaptation of the novel by JG Ballard was the subject of a newspape campaign to have it banned after its screening at the London Film Festival last year. Westminster Council, in London. gave it an interim ban. Until that is lifted, the number of cinemas at which Crash can be shown in London may be affected.

The film, starring the Oscar winner Holly Hunter, demands a strong stomach. But its opponents ignored the fact that its deliberately sterile atmosphere and the stress on the unfulfilled nature of the characters' relationships acted against it glamourising its subject matter.

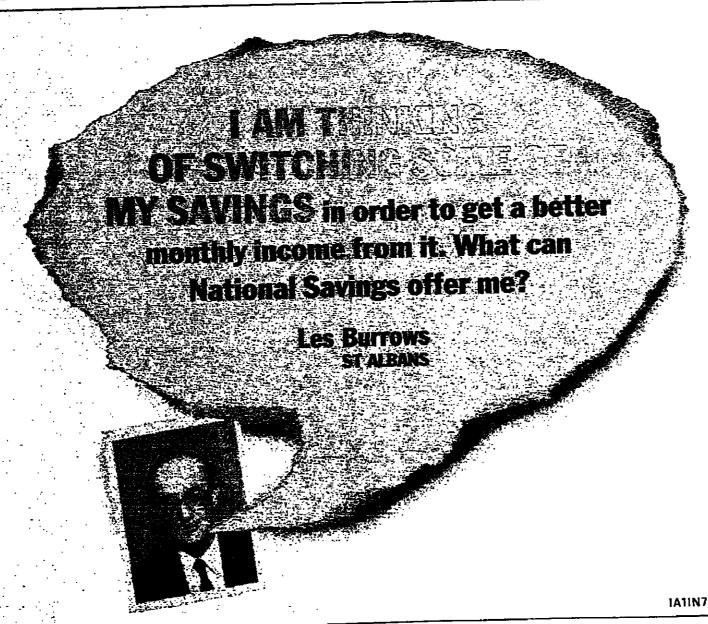
The psychologist consulted by the BBFC said there was no sexual deviancy in the film, and that a notorious scene with a woman in callipers was not fetishistic because she was seen as attractive in spite of her scars and limb supports, not because of them.

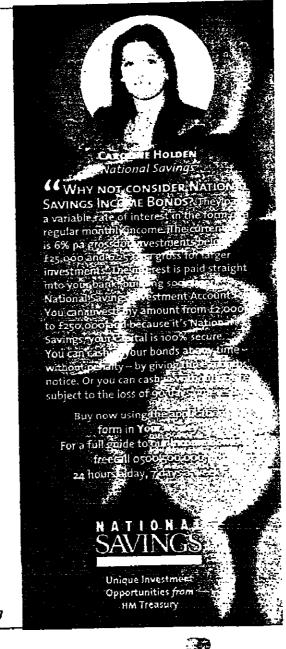
The BBFC said disabled people shown the film believed the depiction of the woman struggling in callipers mirrored the difficulties that many of

them had had to overcome.
Celebrities including Jeremy Irons, Nicolas Roeg,
Michael Palin, Ken Loach and film producer Duncan Kenworthy had rallied to the film's defence. A spokesman for Columbia TriStar, the film's UK distributors, said: "We are thrilled the BBFC have finally given Crash the certificate it has

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Women are being subjected to unnecessary tests and Cae-sarean sections, wasting £10m annually and increasing illhealth, a new report from the Audit Commission says today.

The nationwide study, of 2.400 mothers reported wide geographical discrepancies in Caesarean rates which, the commission said, indicated that some doctors were too quick to rely on this method.

Women who had interventions during childbirth, including forceps deliveries and Caesareans, described "reduced levels of satisfaction and confidence", felt "less well supported and suffered increased postnatal ill health," according to the report.

There is general consensus that levels of Caesarean section are higher than are clinically required ... Caesarean sections at trusts visited ranged from 11 per cent to 18 per cent of deliveries and vary more than twofold nationally (the average being 17 per cent]. the report said.

Obstetricians perform Caereasons, including abnormal foctal presentation, foctal distress and poor progress during

The report said: "These interventions have important consequences, with women taking longer to recover and staying longer in hospital, making them more costly. A Caesarean section can cost in excess of £700".

The Audit Commission collected information from 13 NHS trusts. 12 commissioning authorities and 300 GPs, as well as from women who had given birth in June and July 1995. Each year the NHS spends

more than £1.1bn on maternity services for about 650,000 El 700 per delivery. The commission found that many trusts breast feeding.

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ups than were needed for lowrisk women and some relied too much on specialist involvement.

This was more expensive and less popular than local community services provided by midwives and GPs, and tied up resources worth £10m annually, which could be better spent on providing better information women, said the report.

Although health authorities and trusts have been encouraged to take a more womancentred approach, since the publication of Changing Childbirth by the government-ap-pointed Expert Maternity Group in 1993, the commission says that they could do more.

In many ways, the report is an indictment of the hospital services, showing that less than half of pregnant women felt that hospital staff gave them confidence and less than two in five felt that someone got to know them. One in four women reported be-ing left alone in labour, at a time that worried them.

Ms Beverley Fitzsimons, project manager at the commission. said: "Health authorities have got to use a variety of means to find out what women want, in cluding consulting local maternity services liaison committees. We found the general growth in Caesarean sections worrying, and the variation between trusts worrying. We do not believe that there is such a thing as "a correct rate". but a rate which is right for the particular case-mix. We would recommend that each trust reviews its Caesarean rate to see

whether it is justified." Postnatal hospital care came in for the most critical comment, with women complaining about "poor food and hygiene, cramped bathrooms and inadequate eating areas." They also women, at a cost of about felt that different professionals



Tiny tartan: Young members of the Wallace clan rehearsing for today's 'Braveheart Walk' at Stirling Castle

Masons told to reveal themselves

Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

The days of freemasonry as a secret organisation may be num-bered. Freemasons in the police force and the judiciary should be forced to disclose their membership of the organisation, anall-party group of MPs will recommend in a report to be published next week.

The recommendation will send shock waves through the 7,823 lodges and 349,213 masons around the country for whom secrecy has always been sacred. Membership of lodges may decline if men joining them are no longer able to

likely to make recommendations on how registers should be kept and whether they should be open to everyone or only to relevant parties.

A new Labour government is likely to seize on the recommendation, especially as Jack Straw, the shadow Home Secretary, suggested in his evidence that there should be a register for defence and pros-

ecution lawyers in court cases.

The Home Affairs Committee, which has spent the past six months examining masonry in the police and judiciary, has been inundated with over 200 submissions and its members have been influenced by the However, the committee is un-mended that masons in public

life should declare themselves. Several bodies involved in the administration of the law and the judiciary have submitted evidence recommending more openness about freemasonry. For example, the Law Society, which represents solicitors, said there were a number of options. including some form of regis-tration system by the Lord Chancellor's Office for judges

and chief constables for police. The Association of Chief Police Officers also said it was prepared to support a register, although it did not specify how it should be done. Among police groups, only the Police Federation, which represents been surprised that freemasonry is not as prevalent among the judiciary and the police as expected. Of the 130 senior judges, only a handful are masons according to evidence given to the committee. This is seen as a decline in the prevalence of masonry since it first started attracting major media attention in the mid 1980s.

Among a sample of local magistrates for which evidence was obtained, between a sixth and a third were masons in one common in other area

Supporters of disclosure er, it took two years for the enpoint out that freemasonry only secretive after the Second World War and until

MPs on the committee have then members did not necessarily hide the fact that they be-

longed to a lodge.
The members of the Home Affairs committee have not been divided solely on party lines with some Tory MPs sup-porting a disclosure of mem-bership by freemasons, while some Labour MPs have expressed opposition. The inquiry into freemasonry was first suggested by a Labour member of the committee, Chris Mullin, who was disturbed at the number of freemasons who ap-

peared to be involved in the Birmingham Six case. Howevquiry by MPs to start after they

Evans is sued on terrorist remark

lan Burrell

The Birmingham Six yestenday served a libel writ on Tory MP David Evans over remarks allegedly made during an inter-

Supporters of the Birming-ham Six said the comments, which apparently questioned the men's innocence of the 1974 pub bombings, were deeply hurtful and came as their final compensation claims were still being settled.

The writ was served on Mr Evans's solicitors by agents of the men's lawyers, London-

based BM Bimberg & Co.

Benedict Birnberg said the action was prompted by remarks allegedly made by Mr Evans when he addressed schoolchildren in Welwyn Garden City last month.

Mr Birnberg said he wrote 10. Mr Evans about the comments in early March but, when no reply was received, a writ was issued last Friday and served yesterday. We are seeking damages and an injunction preventing him from saying these

things again, he said.

Michael Collins from the British and Irish Human Rights Centre, which campaigns for the men, said: "Mr Evans' remarks were ill-judged and irresponsi-ble, particularly coming from a Member of Parliament.

"The Birmingham Six case was settled, and they proved their innocence. Any attempt to impugn their integrity must be fought. They are quite right to take legal action to protect their reputation. These sort of

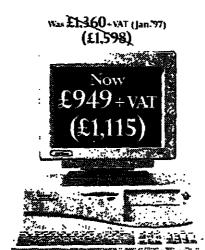
remarks are deeply hurtful."

The men's lawyers were seeking a judicial review in a bid to finalise compensation claims, he said. "Their compensation has still not be settled, although substantial interim payments have been made.

"Their marriages have broken down, their children grew up, and their worth was taken away while they were in prison. They have found it virtually impossible to get work, and yet no settlement has been made."

Mr Evans' talk with south-formers at Stanborough School caused a storm of protest when details of what he reached the media.

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Mad cow legacy will last into next century

The legacy of mad cow disease and a variant of the fatal brain mittee on BSE and CJD. will last far longer than the dis-case itself. While the number of cases of bovine spongiform en-cepalopathy (RSE) is falling rapidly, the political, medical economic and legal ramifications will follow us into the next

It is a year tomorrow that support network set up by vic-Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary time families. The possibility reof State for Health, said the mains that thousands will Government recognised a link eventually die of it. according betweenexposure to the agent to Professor John Pattison, the that causes bovine spongiform scientist who chairs of Seac, the encepalopathy (BSE) in cows Government's advisory com-

One year on from government's BSE announcement, nobody knows how many will die disorder Creutzfeldt-Jakob Dis-

ease (CJD) in humans. At that time, there were 10 confirmed cases of v-CID, as the infective agent, nor how long doctors now refer to it. It was it takes to incubate before causunknown before 1994.

Now there are 17 definite and

The problem is that nobody knows how many people have been exposed to how much of ing clinical symptoms.

Estimates vary from 15 years probable cases, according to the upwards. Precautions taken since last March have reduced the risk that BSE-infected products could enter the human food supply but scientists still argue about how infective meat or other tissues could be. The certainty is that the num-

ber of cows with the disease is tailing off. Last year, there were only 7,709 confirmed casmarkets. es in the UK, less than 0.1 per cent of the national herd, and this year there have been 177. so far. At the peak in 1992, there

have been slaughtered. But the economic effect lingers. Britain's £500m beef export market is still moribund, as it has been since 27 March last year, when the European Com-

of the effect of BSE on world

John Major's "beef war" of non-cooperation with the EC last summer was short-lived. The Ministry of Agriculture. Fisheries and Food (Maff) now were almost 37,000 confirmed says it has complied with the cases. In total, more than 166,000 BSE-infected cattle EC's requirements for the lifting of the ban, introducing a cull of cattle and new inspection and certification of herds and meat. but does not know when the Commission ban will be lifted.

The EC shows no signs of

mission banned exports, fearful hurrying. Several countries on the Continent are facing their own BSE lears, with suggestions that France and Germany have covered up cases. The deaths of two people in France and one in Germany of suspected v-CJD has added to these worries.

But even when the ban is lifted, Britain's herds have been decimated, and exporters will have to break into markets that have been taken over by rivals. At home, the political effect has been immense. Mr Major

Douglas Hogg, Secretary of State for Agriculture, has been pummelled over his department's failure to stamp out BSE. The issue has widened Tory divisions on Europe.

More importantly, the fallout from BSE has enraged farmers and will cost the Tories important votes in constituencies they once relied on. Some farmers are prepared to break the habit of a lifetime and not vote Conservative in the coming election.

especially in the West Country. The permanent losers are the lost face over his about-turn.

who have had, or will have, v-CJD. It affects voung people

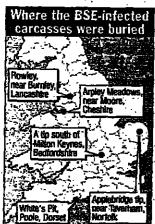
and is always (ata). The prospects for treatment are minimal. Scientists are still unsure whether the disease is caused by a misshapen protein. the "prion" hypothesis, or a related effect which causes the protein to accumulate in insol-

uble plagues in the brain. Professor John Collinge, who last year demonstrated that the molecular "signature" of the plaques of BSE and v-CJD is almost identical, believes a therapy is at least 10 years away.

Concern over infected cow burial sites

Investigations by The Independent have found a number of of animal waste in the manner sites around England where BSE-infected carcasses with the heads removed were legally buried before 1991, when government advice was changed to insist that cows with BSE must be incinerated except in unusual circumstances.

The sites identified are in avariety of counties, including sequently by the Maff division-Bedfordsnire, Cheshire, Dorset,



Lancashire and Norfolk. It is not known, though, how many of the 6.117 BSE-infected cattle to water or ground supplies. that the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (Maff) said have been buried in landfills visory committee on BSE and since 1986 are located at the sites. Maff-staff are now ingently

acpendent are: A tip operated by Shanks McEwan south of Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire. Rail freight workers recall a delivery of infected cattle before 1990.

A company spokesman was imable to verify the details, but said: "We would have disposed

demanded by legislation." ■ Arpley Meadows, near Moore, Cheshire. In 1990, it was taking delivery of at least four

White's Pit, Poole, Dorset, An unknown number were deposited there in 1988 and 1989. The action was defended subal veterinary officer for the area, who said There is no ev-

up to 18 months.

of suitable quality.

sites of buried carcasses is also at variance with the ministry's insistence that they pose no risk A spekesman pointed out that Seac, the Government's ad-

The sites identified by The in- problems" and "didn't recommend that we uncover the past". However, farmers are not allowed to bury sheep which die of scrapie - the sheep equiva-

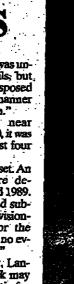
carcasses per week

idence of BSE in bones." Rowley, near Burnley, Lancashire. Up to 20 a week may have been buried on the tip for

tle were buried there. The site is 800 metres from the river Wensum, and a farmer living near the site has been told that water from a nearby borehole would not be The urgency with which Maff's Animal Health offices at

related diseases, concluded last May that the buried animals

lent of BSE, and the disease



Attlebridge tip, near Taver-ham, Norfolk Between 1989 and 1992, 350 BSE-infected cat-

Tolworth, near London, are compiling the complete list of



Looking to the future: One of the calves from the pedigree herd at Kennels Farm, Bletchingley, Surrey, which will replace cattle that have to be called Photograph: John Voos

of BSE - because experience agent remains in the land.

A Seac member told The Independent last week that "we would have to do a risk assessment? to be entirely sure what possible threat might remain af-

But, he added, "We were eat-

"The risk that those sites pose is infinitesimal compared to they were banned from food in



Agonising decline that led to first diagnosis of new illness

lise now that the car crash was Stephen couldn't explain what the first sign, writes Charles had happened. Nor could his

across the white line, head-on to an oncoming army truck," said Dave Churchill, Stephen's Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease

Arthur.

"It was about August. He was simply driving near home in his mum's Ford Fiesta and he went Churchill yesterday.

But for that, the first Briton to die of the "new variant" of

Stephen Churchill's parents re- father. The car was a write-off, might have been just another alice new that the car crash was Stephen couldn't explain what road statistic.

Mr Churchill feels now that the disease's name (v-CJD) is confusing: "It would be better to call it something else, like 'florid plaque disease' - which is what you see in the brain sec-tions – to distinguish it from the normal form," he said.

The "sporadic" form of CJD usually affects people over 60, and has no known cause. By contrast, v-CID has so far affected people under 50, and is almost certainly caused by eating BSE-infected food.

But the Churchills had no inkling of that. Instead, they endured months in which the 18year-old slipped into an incurable, remote depression and gave up school. In November, his mother took him out shopping, and stopped at a cafeteria. They ate a small meal and went back out to the car. "Did you enjoy that?" she asked. Stephen didn't remem-

Doctors insisted it was simply depression. Stephen was given medication. By December he was losing his co-ordination and could not sign his name. He spent that Christmas with them "the most miserable we've ever

had", recalled Mr Churchill. It was so bad that on 3 January 1995 they demanded another consultation with the psychiatrist. Stephen was admitted to hospital. The doctors eemed reluctant to diagnose CID in an 18-year-old - it would make medical history - but on 13 February they did. Mr Churchill recalls his irustration. A diagnosis "would not have helped Stephen, but it would have taken away the doubt,

which is what breeds fear". Early in May, Stephen was released into a care home, where Publicity is a weapon, he behis family recreated his own bedroom - "his Pamela Anderson posters, his beer bottle collection, all those things". They were prepared for his in-

evitable death to take years; instead he died two weeks later. on 21 May - the first, and youngest. Briton to die of v-CJD. When Stephen Dorrell made his fateful announcement last March. "it gave me a focus for my anger", said Mr Churchill.
"It's as if Stephen had been killed by a hit-and-run driver.

and then 10 months later the po-



made medical history

then, the Churchills have applied pressure for a judicial review. They have never directly blamed beef for their son's death: preferring to let the sci-entists do that. "We just ask questions," said Mr Churchill.

After Stephen died, the Churchills became closely involved with the national CJD Support Group. Mr Churchill's advice to anybody whose child or relative dies of v-CID is: "We would encourage anybody to go to the media after their loss." lieves, which will eventually out to the answer: whose fault was it that these people died? ■The National CID Helpline is

on 01380 720033.

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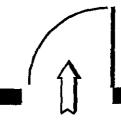
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news

Penguin wins its suit as Puffin gets the crumbs in battle of the biscuits

lan Burreli

Asda, the supermarket chain, may have to p-p-pick up a bill for damages after the judge in the great chocolate biscuit case ruled that its Puffin brand was copy of the famous Penguin. Mr Justice Robert Walker found

Asda guilty of passing-off, but al-lowed the supermarket to continue making its biscuits provided it amended the packaging. United Biscuits had sued Asda on the grounds that the supermarket's product was a copy of its 60-year-old brand.

The seven-day hearing at the High Court in London was supposed to end the confusion of the shopper but ended up baffling the biscuit-makers, both of which claimed a victory. Asda said it would continue to sell Puffins after "tweaking" the packaging, although it admitted that it was unsure

what changes the judge had in mind. Mr Justice Walker's 35-page judgment included his "judicial notice of relevant ornithology". After noting the differences between the two birds



Latin names, plumage and nesting places, he admitted: "My own knowledge has been supplemented considerably from a handbook which counsel

In a judgment punctuated by pic-tures of Puffins and Penguins, the judge referred to various images used by UB over the years, including Penguins in rubber boots, chef's hat and ice skates and scarf. Recently UB had gone

back to using more naturalistic penguins - "not encumbered by boots. skates or other paraphernalia".

The judge said that had the Asda product been called "Bison" with an appropriate cartoon, the case would

ordered an inquiry into the amount of damages suffered by UB as a result of

the Asda product. UB's sales of McVities Penguins amount to £30m a year with more than never have been brought. The word

Fuffin is not very different in form from

Asda's expenditure on developing and ed: The Puffin packaging and get up was, in the material sense, deceptivecent cheaper than the Penguin - was awaiting sale in the old packaging.

ly similar to those of the Penguin." He introduced at its 200-plus stores as a "brand beater".

The judge cleared Asda of infringing UB's registered trade marks - the name and pictures of the bird - except for two incidents when the supermarket went so far as to use the phrase "Pick up a Puffin" in its advertising. He granted a 35-day stay of execution to hundreds of thousands of Puffins

Scrap BBC governors, say I

Paul McCann Media Correspondent

A committee of MPs has condemned the BBC Board of Governors as a bunch of parttime amateurs threatening the

Parliament's National Hertage Select Committee, which vesterday released its longawaited report, The BBC and The Future Of Broadcasting. says the corporation cannot expect to survive in the coming age of new digital channels and interactive TV if it continues to be managed by part-timers with

no knowledge of broadcasting. Instead, the committee, which is chaired by Gerald Kaufman.

wants to see a hands-on executive chairman appointed by the Secretary of State for National Heritage who is backed up by At present, the BBC's Board

of Governors is comprised of the great and the good, such as former trade union leader Bill Jordan. Lord Lennox, a former ambassador to Spain and Margaret Spurr. a former head-"The present governors were

no doubt an extremely worthy the BBC on taste and decency debt. "We believe it should be collection of people. Mr Kanf- matters. It wants an external run as a business. But we want man told BBC Radio 4's The World At One. "But in this cut-throat world

of huge expansions in broadcasting, it is simply inappropriate for the BBC to go on being run by a part-time group of the great and the good."
The BBC said its governors

were custodians of the licence payer's interest and not a Pic so no change was needed.

As well as professional directors, the report recommends that the Board of Governors should lose its right to regulate

regulator like the Independent Television Commission which

oversees Channel 4 and ITV. But the committee does not believe now is the time to move lator, covering the BBC and the commercial sector. It wants a simpler body in uiti-

mate control of the corporation. The report also recommends that the BBC should be able to borrow from banks for expansion without the debt adding to the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement and thereby con-

tributing to the Government's homes from next year.

the public service nature of its activities to be safeguarded. and that is why we recommend the external regulator" said Mr

The report casts doubt on the long-term future of digital terrestrial broadcasting. In January, ITV broadcasters Carlton Communications and Granada linked up with Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB and the BBC to apply for three digital frequen-cies that could start broadcast-

ing 30 channels into British

The report concludes that the digital system has will only last for a short period because of its inability to supply truly inter-active TV services such as video-on-demand. The committee also said the

funding tormula Channel 4 pays the ITV companies millions of pounds every year should be ended as soon as possible. But the MPs dismissed calls for Channel 4 to be privatised. "We are at a loss ?" understand why there is any consideration whatever of privatising Channel 4," the MPs

Lucy Ward Education Correspondent

More than 100,000 pupils in mainstream schools are so disruptive they should be removed and taught in special schools, the leader of the second largest eaching union said vesterday.

The call for a return towards egregated education, made by Nigel de Gruchy, general sec-retary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, flies in the face of almost 20 years of efforts to integrate children with spe-

cial needs into ordinary schools.

The number of children with behavioural problems now staying in ordinary schools was the biggest single factor behind the dramatic rise in permanent exclusions from 2.500 to over

years, Mr de Gruchy said. A report blaming integration for much of the increase in classroom disruption will be presented to the union's Easter

The NASUWT's call for greater segregation in order to ease discipline problems comes as part of a package of demands directed at the Government taking power after the election.

The union will also ask a new administration to work with it to cut workloads by reducing bureaucracy imposed on teachers as a result of school inspection and pupil assessment. If nothing is done within a year, it will ballot members over a boycott of such tasks.

The NASUWT will also renew its calls for substantial salary rises for teachers who opt 11,000 annually in the last four to stay in the classroom rather

than seeking promotion and cutting back on teaching, offering in return to accept tough appraisals which could allow heads to get rid of poor teachers more easily. The present top salary for classroom teachers of £21,000 should be raised to

£30,000, the union said. Mr de Gruchy also chal-lenged Mary Warnock, whose seminal 1978 report calling for children with special educational needs to be taught with their peers wherever possible formed the basis of the 1981 Education Act. Baroness Warnock should practise what she had preached, Mr de Gruchy said.

"If it is so important to care for these youngsters why doesn't she give up her job in the House of Lords and go and teach these youngsters and show how it should be done?"

Union chief seeks special Hospital's 'poor' cardiac schools for unruly pupils surgery prompts inquiry

Annabel Ferriman

Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, announced an inquiry yesterday into cardiac surgery at Bristol Royal Infirmary after the publication of a report showing that one of the hospital's consultants had a

"poor" surgical record. An independent expert review which considered the treatment of 2,500 patients operated on during 1993-1995 condemned the record of James Wisheart as "significantly poor-er" than that of his colleagues.

Mr Wisheart retired early as medical director of the hospital in December, when he also stopped doing clinical work. On Monday, the 59-year-old surgeon announced his retirement from the NHS. He and fel-

Surgeon

Dhasmana already face a sep-arate General Medical Council investigation following an inquiry into the paediatric cardiac

ugery at the hospital. Last year, it was revealed that nine out of 13 babies died when undergoing "switch" operations and other surgical techniques to repair heart defects at the hospital between 1990 and 1995. The failure rate was around two out of three, compared with a national average of one in 10.

A GMC spokesman said: "Our investigations into com-plaints about paediatric cardiac surgery at the Bristol Royal Inmary are well advanced.". Mr Dorrell revealed, in an-

swer to a question from Robert Key, MP for Salisbury, that the Department of Health inquiry would not start until the GMC investigation was over.

"I am mainly concerned about the response made at that time by the trust's manage-

ment to these matters," he said. "In the past two years, the trust has taken steps to improve the services, appointing a new paediatric cardiac surgeon and transferring services to new specialist facilities at the Bristol Children's Hospital.

"However questions remain" about the handling of these difficult issues," he said. "It is vi tal the facts are ascertained; that any failures are identified and that lessons are learnt in Bristol and throughout the country to prevent similar situations in

funre." The original inquiry into the deaths was carried out by Marc de Leval, consultant paediatric surgeon at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital

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Springtime for Hockney as he paints the town with flowers

المكذا من الأصل



Arts News Editor

For the art world, 1 May will have a significance beyond the general election. David Hockney is to give his first major British show of paintings for nearly a decade.

The exhibition "Flowers, Faces and Spaces", until 19 July at the Annely Juda Gallery in central London, will include a brand new series of more than 30 portraits and self-portraits and 18 still lifes never exhibited before. It will be his largest commercial gallery show. A number of the works will be for sale and are expected to fetch between £150,000 and £400,000, and it is likely to be one of the best attended exhibitions of the year.

Annely Juda, who has been a friend of Hockney's since the Sixties, said yesterdaythat the flower still lifes were "a real departure for David".

Hockney, who lives in Los Angeles, says the new paintings of irises, sunflowers and violets bathed in Californian sunlight were greatly inspired by a visit he made to the Vermeer exhibition in The Hague last year. "What struck me was how vivid and strong the colour was in paintings that are 300 years old," he said. "I came back here and realised we've got a marvellous abundance of wonderful, strong light. I began to arrange daylighting in different ways ... I've painted flowers throughout my career, but I've never really done a whole series."

A 160-page catalogue documenting all the new paintings will accompany the exhibition.



Thatcher to join Churchill in archive

and personal papers are to go on on setting up the charity was alcollege. The former Tory prime minister said she was "delighted" that the records of her life and work would stay in Britain, and join those of an earlier premier, Winston Churchill.

Lady Thatcher announced yesterday that she would donate her papers to a new charity, the
Margaret Thatcher Archive

I had the privilege to lead".
The spokesman said papers Trust, which would lend them permanently - "subject to certain conditions of care" - to 30-year rule for government pa-

The keeper of the college's archives centre, Dr Piers Bren- not be available until 2010. don, said the papers were "without doubt the most important Sir Winston 37 years ago, has archive of our times, following that of Sir Winston himself" The collection, which includes photographs and audiovisual material, comprises more than 1,000 boxes of Lady Thatcher's Lord Hailsham and Selwyn political and personal papers to her years as leader of the opposition and prime minister. A spokesman for Lady

made for moving the archive.

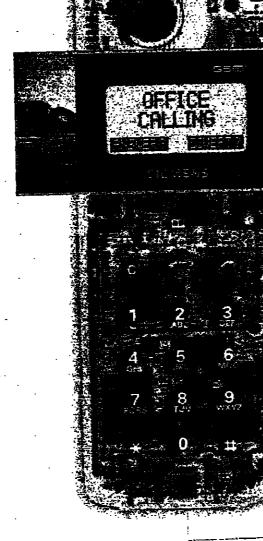
Lady Thatcher said she hoped the papers would "be a valuable source for students and scholars changes brought about by the

The spokesman said papers related to her work as prime minister would be bound by the Churchill College, Cambridge. pers, so those from her first months in power in 1979 would

Churchill college, founded by 400 other collections of papers, including those of former Labour prime minister Clement Attice and former leader Neil Kinnock, and senior Tories Lloyd. The master of the col-Thatcher's initiative is a generous one: we welcome it and will take good care of these papers."

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DAILY POEM

Spring

By Peter Dale

Yes, yes, we watched so many things die; lamented the fresh green of the willow and sundry roses under this or that sky and much else mourned into a pillow.

We knew full well it came to this. So I offer you this nostalgia of grief, and these sprigs of forsythia, not much amiss, that blossom before they come to leaf.

"Spring", originally published in Peter Dale's collection *Too*Much of Water, appears in his recent volume of new and selected poems, Edge to Edge (Anvil Press, £9.95). Anvil also publishes his translation of Dante's Divine Comedy.



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PM the challenger as leaders swap roles

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

John Major is approaching the campaign trail like the challenger against the prime ministerial Tony Blair. His opening trip to Luton on Monday showed that he is at home

roughing it on the street.
One seasoned television presenter said: "Alistair Campbell has told Tony not to make eye contact with us. He stares straight ahead and sails past. He's been told it's not prime ministerial to do door-steps [off-the-cuff interviews] Major does them all the time.

Mr Major knows he has to cause a stir; Mr Blair knows he has to avoid it. If he is to come from behind, a trip yesterday to the workshops of McLaren, the Formula One racing team, showed Mr Major that the place he should be cutting up rough is Tory headquarters in

Smith Square.
The visit started promisingly enough. The theme this week is "British excellence", journalists were told on the breakfast coach to the McLaren plant in leafy Woking, Surrey. Mr Maor would see the British-built McLaren car which won the Australian Grand Prix at the eekend with its British driver, David Coulthard. The trip was

donor to Tory party funds, to show that the underdog can win. A winning racing car, fired up, and raring to go with its British

In the event, the coffinsized car had been put up on two steel trestles in a high-tech maintenance bay. It had been stripped of its wheels; and there were red stickers saying "Sun" on the wing mirrors. The man from the Sun (backs Blair) was

McLaren may be world-beaters, but as a photo-opportunity, the racing car without wheels was a dead duck, shot to pieces with metaphors. "The wheels have dropped off the wagon, said the man from the Sun.

As he left McLaren, Mr Major faced the cameras for a "door step", brushing aside the Sun's endorsement for Tony Blair, and insisting like McLaren, that he will come from behind to win.

His words were nearly drowned out by a train on a line a few hundred yards away. It was operated by South West Trains, the company which has given the Government's privatisation programme a bad name by slashing services. He will be back on the cam-

with Ron Dennis, managing director of McLaren, a personal been irresistible to the lunchtime television news.

> paign trail today, visiting a school in the Midlands with assisted places to highlight Tory education policies. There will be more visits to factories run by Tory-supporting businessmen, to challenge Mr Blair's ability to woo the business vote. And

with Jeffrey Archer, the novelist, acting as the minder and warm-up act. Security surrounding a Tory election rally at the Royal Albert Hall in London on 4 April has been put on full alert for a possible IRA

tion was published. The security risks surrounding Mr Major's tour were highlighted by the near riot in Luton on Monday, where he opened the campaign with a speech from his soap box. The Major Battle Bus will be

stopping more often than it did in 1992 for street meetings in press officer, will take in the West Country, where the Lib-

this campaign. The tour, accompanied by Lord Archer, Howell James, his policy adviser, and Sheila Gunn, his

eral Democrats are strong, and the Midlands, where Mr Major has been wooing the Asian vote. Basildon in Essex is on the list, as the scene of the turning point for the Tories on election

trolled councils. It will be a gruelling six-week campaign, and it risks turning off the voters. Maj gram sche is dit

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Blazing a trail: John Major and his wife, Norma (right), viewing an £800,000 McLaren GT car at the Formula One team's plant at Woking yesterday

Labour plans party trick to Ashdown shuns machismo present two Tony Blairs

Labour has a trick up its sleeve to keep the electorate keen over the next six weeks - not one

Tony Blair, but two. The first Mr Blair to appear at each election event will be a smiling, almost presidential figure who will be surrounded by cheering crowds wearing red rosettes and carrying swathes of red balloons.

But the glitzy, glamorous and even exciting man who is supposed to be created by these scenes will soon be replaced by a more serious character. The second Mr Blair will be found holding in-depth discussions with voters, giving keynote speeches to serious audiences and arguing the toss on policy issues with the unconvinced.

"Enthuse and convince" will he the key to the party's campaign. Mr Blair must be por-

lightweight. Every shower of red roses must be backed up by a serious show of political weight.

Mr Blair's first election trip. to Gloucester on Monday, was a perfect example of the genre. Step one: as the party leader descends from his train, accompanied by his wife, Cherie, he is greeted by an enthusiastic demonstration and his aides have to clear a path from the platform to his car. Step two: Cherie sits in the back row as Mr Blair, accompanied by the local candidate, takes questions on everything from Eu-

rope to prescription charges. Every scene will be carefully controlled by the party's spin doctors, and many will appear far more spontaneous than they really are. There will be more focus groups of the type seen in Gloucester, and there will also be town-centre walkabouts of

whose presence sparks wild en- the sort John Major attempted While Mr Blair is busy with thusiasm in every crowd, offi- in Luton. His wife will accom- all this, the key figures in his not appear pany him to many of the events. campaign will b but will not be omnipresent during the campaign.

As for the big, set-piece rallies and speeches, these will certainly happen, but will be minutely planned in order to prevent a repetition of the triumphal Sheffield rally which was credited by some with losing Labour the last election.

There will be a big-city rally during the last week or so, and possibly another earlier in the campaign, though party spin doctors are not saying yet where or when they will be. We can confidently expect, though, that they will have a somewhat more serious, statesmanlike air than some past events. There will be rabble-rousing speeches to the party faithful, of course, but these will be interspersed with heavyweight, set piece adof business people and the like.

country, concentrating their efforts on about 100 target seats. This part of the election effort will be spearheaded by Labour's deputy leader, John Prescott, who has just embarked on a 10.000-mile round Britain tour. It will be backed up by every

other member of Labour's frontbench team. Leading women MPs will play a key part in the party's strategy, meeting focus groups of floating female voters in marginal seats and also visiting businesses where many of the

staff are women. Each party regional office has a detailed plan of which politicians will appear in which marginal seats on which days. But with a six-week campaign stretching resources there are many officials who may be wishing they had three, four or even five Tony Blairs.

suaded that he has a lot more to offer female voters than either the Conservative or the Labour leader.

As part of a "women-friendly campaign, the Liberal De-mocrat leader will attempt to listen rather than hector, sug-gest rather than assert and tell the truth rather than dissemble, his aides argue. Where John Major and Tony Blair will don the mantle of gravitas, Mr. Ashdown will try for statesmanlike humility with the odd giggle thrown in.

He believes that the cockfighting tactics of the other party leaders are a turn-off to voters in general, and to women in oarticular.

To reinforce the pitch for female votes, he will be enlisting high-profile help from Baroness Williams of Crosby (former Labour minister Shirley

Williams), Emma Nicholson, His senior lieutenants also informer Tory and now Liberal sist that the party will avoid constituencies, particularly in and Torridge and Diana Mad-

to catch the female vote

dock, MP for Christchurch. The Liberal Democrats might or might not believe it an advantage that the 56-year-old Mr Ashdown is due to become a grandfather for the first time during the hustings.
When the wheels of the Lib-

eral Democrats' "battle bus" finally start turning on 7 April it will no doubt become known as the Paddy Wagon - Mr Ashdown will want to be seen as a listener rather than a speechifyer.

His campaign managers boast that he will meet far more electors than the other party leader. The Liberal Democrat high command is determined to avoid television footage of Mr Ashdown charging through shopping precincts preceded by spin doctors, scattering voters and leaflets in

though a press conference at their headquarters yesterday failed to resist the temptation.

"Labour is not offering a change, it is offering an echo,' was one of the themes. In the words of Lord Hohne, party campaign manager, Mr Major and Mr Blair are engaged in an exhibition of "synchronised

> swimming". The campaign's clarion call which will adorn the manifesto, leaflets and all other material - will be the injunction: "Make the Difference". This may be regarded as a slightly

negative way of being positive.
Different from what?
Senior officials at the party's Cowley Street headquarters in Westminster calculate that Labour's inexorable march to the right has left a yawning gap into which they can pour their limited resources.

Democrat MP for Devon West "negative campaigning", al- the West Country where the Liberal Democrats have come a close second to the Tories. Honesty will be the buzz

> word on the campaign trail. Honesty about increased taxes - the only credible way of improving education, the party argues. And honesty about Europe - the only party to be unashamedly Europhile.
> To those who contend that the

proprietorship of a whelk stall: may only be a distant ambition for the party, Mr Ashdown will point to the £15bn of public money for which they are responsible as the second largest party at local authority level. The general election coincides with

voting in local elections. And to those who dare suggest that the Liberal Democrats are basically Paddy Ashdown's party, they argue that he is more "team leader" than generalissimo.

MPs offer a case for windfall tax

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

An all-party Commons select committee yesterday provided Labour's plans for a windfall tax on the privatised utilities, with a report unanimously concluding that regulation had been too lenient in the the years after the state sell-offs.

However the rest of the report provided little support for the key Labour utilities policies. It conspicuously failed to back Labour's plans to change the system of price controls which la based on the retail price index. Labour wants to demonstrated that the Gov-

supplement this with an additional annual lever to cream off any excess profits, but the committee's Labour chairman, Martin O'Neill, argued this would be too complicated. "We're not sure that is going to work." He said the current regime, was "as good as we're going to get at the moment".

Committee members were also notably lukewarm on Labour's policy to back up individual regulators with boards to delay structural reforms until the completion of domestic competition in gas and electricity later next year.

ernment has been hard pressed to get across the benefits of privatisation, while utility executives pay themselves huge salaries. However, the issue has also proved complex for New Labour. Mr O'Neill yesterday admitted that privatisation had "benefited" consumers, a statement which would have been hugely controversial before the last election, though he insist-

ed much of the improvement

had come from a worldwide of advisory directors, preferring plunge in energy prices. Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, immediately seized on the conclusions, which he claimed endorsed the case for the windfall tax. In a BBC interview, he added: "What the

report is about is whether the profits have been to high and the regulatory system too lax. And my whole case for the windfall tax is that the profits

have been too high." Though the tax itself was ostensibly beyond the committee's the electricity self-off for sup-remit. Mr O'Neill told a news plying up the biggest windfalls conference "there was evidence in the report to support the case for a windfall profits tax." He went on: "Profits were excessive and we all agree they were ex-

John Butterfill, a Conservative committee member, swiftly disagreed, arguing that there would be "no point in having a regulator" if the tax went ahead. "The concept of a windfall

profits tax undermines the role of the regulator," he said. However, he also admitted that regulators had "underestimated the efficiency savings that could be achieved" from privatisation.

The Committee singled out to investors, outweighing savings to customers. Figures showed shareholders in the 12 regional electricity companies, privatised in 1990 for £8bn, had earned total returns of about 40 per cent a year, well above the rise in the stock market as a whole. In contrast, prices for domestic customers dropped by just 15 per cent after inflation.



Brown: Claims

Brown puts British Gas and BT firmly in his sights

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

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Labour yesterday gave the clearest indication yet that British Telecom would be caught in its planned windfall tax on the privatised utilities.

Facing repeated questioning about tax, Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, said it would affect "privatised companies that are licensed and regulated by statute." Experts said the de-

water companies which have always expected to be included.

Mr Brown also categorically denied that the tax would be repeated in subsequent years. He told BBC radio: "This is a one-off. I have made that abwhich companies would be hit by the solutely clear." Several utility companies have claimed the tax could be resurrected to raise funds for other

Labour programmes. Though he again declined to reveal finition was wider than any used so far how much money the tax would raise, by Labour, and would include BT. Mr Brown reaffirmed that the levy to Treasury coffers after a post-elec-

would work, adding: "we're utterly sat-isfied the three billion pound employment programme that we are proposing will be comfortably financed within the windfall levy." The party also announced it would appoint a minister for jobs working under the Secre-tary of State for Education.

Last night, one leading utility expert. Simon Flowers from the NatWest Bank's stockbroking arm, estimated that BT could have to pay at least £1bn British Gas, the airports operator would fund Labour's £3bn programme tion Labour budget, based on a £5bn

BAA, Railtrack and British Energy – to create jobs for the long-term un-in addition to the electricity supply and to create jobs for the long-term un-employed. Mr Brown insisted the tax creasingly since the turn of the year, the Labour Party has been suggesting the net would be spread fairly widely. That's why we've included British Gas and British Telecom in our calculations.

A BT spokesman yesterday brushed off the comments. "We have not been told that we have been included in this tax and we would be surprised if were were, given that our profits are not excessive and the regulation of BT is

anything but lax," he said. BAA, the group which runs Heathrow Airport, said it "welcomed"

to create jobs for the long-term un- windfall tax. Mr Flowers said: "In- the comments. "Gordon Brown stressed that the tax would only apply to the privatised utilities and BAA is not a utility. It simply wouldn't make any sense to include BAA," said a spokesman.

Some companies, including British Gas, BAA and BT, will argue their share prices have not substantially outperformed the general trend in the stockmarket in recent years. A wider tax might be privately supported by the electricity and water companies, which could see their share of the levy halved from £300m to £150m, based

significant shorts

Nationalists join fray with attack on Labour

The Scottish and Welsh nationalists got their election campaigns off the ground yesterday by launching an attack on Labour.

In the last joint news conference by Plaid Cymru and the Scottish National Party before the election, the two parties claimed they were the only ones to provide a radical alternative to the Tories. Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, said: "Blair has effectively cloned new Labour on a Tory model. In terms of economic and tax policy you could not put a cigarette paper between these two parties. So if they did have a [televised head-to-head] debate I can only imagine it would be on the colour of the tie ... or the

Hunting lobby pledges £1m

One of the biggest-ever election lobbying campaigns in recent history is being conducted by the British Field Sports Society in the run up to 1 May.

Faced with the prospect of a massive Labour landslide,

the group is prepared to spend up to £1m fighting an increasingly desperate battle to maintain the right to hunt in Britain. Labour has said it will give MPs a free vote on abolishing fox, deer and mink hunting if it came

Train managers escape quiz

Managers from South West Trains, the troubled train line: whose timetable cuts caused public fury, escaped appearing before a Commons select committee yesterday after Conservative MPs voted to cancel the meeting:

The transport select committee, chaired by a former Conservative minister, Paul Channon, decided to drop the sensitive hearings after Ibry MPs voted against continuing the investigation. SWI's poor performance as the first British Rail company to be sold off to the private sector, in this case to Stagecoach, has ensured that the issue will. be buried by the government. Randsop Ramesh

[هكذا من الأصل]

election countdown

Tony was there, obviously. Gordon was there. David Blunkett was present. Even Margaret Beckett had been allowed on to the platform of Labour's first election press conference (though she didn't say anything). But where was John Prescott, Labour's folk

All we had (among our bundle of press releases) was an ominous bit of paper telling us that Prezza had - that morning - "set out on a 10,000 mile round Britain election tour - the biggest tour by an individual politician in election history".

Tongues wagged as we waited for the event to begin. Was Prescott – like Gerald Kaufman in 1992 – being shunted out of the limelight, deemed too dangerous to leave at large in the capital?

Worse, the release went on to state that "the first leg of the tour will finish in Inverness in late April". The first leg? Late April? But the election is on 1 May, so did this mean that Prezza was to be kept in perpetual (but harmless) motion throughout the next Labour government, commencing visits to African and Central American capitals only when he had exhausted the constituencies of Britain? (Had interpreters all over the world been

coming their way?) But before the Prezza lovers among us had time to protest, a button was pressed and a giant screen in the centre of the white hacienda wall opened up.

warned of the syntactical nightmare

We were transported to a scene out of Songs of Praise. Standing on a windy dock — the river Fal and the low hills of

Aaronovitch



Prezza is projected into perpetual motion

Cornwall behind them - was a group of middle-aged happy clappies, gathered tound their thick-set and avuncular

Any minute, at his gentle command. they'd break into a rendition of "All Things Bright and Beautiful", which we

at home could hum over our press

"Hello John." said Tony fondly, and the thickset vicar smiled craggily and responded. "Hello Tony", It was, of course. John Prescott, embarked upon his tour. Gathered around him, he had a

group of ordinary Falmouthians whose common hobby just happened to be estapulting Labour into power as soon as possible. Prezza was vicar no longer. But as he interviewed the locals live with an aplomb that would done justice to an insert into the National Lottery programme or the Eurovision Song Contest, he became a genuine. seowly-smiley TV start a cross between Anthea Turner and Les Dawson.

Like the moment when he introduced a man in a chef's costume, who was sporting a gigantic pasty on a huge salver. It was, the chef fold us, his contribution to the Labour Party. Our hearts were in our mouths; was it not possible that a Tory dirty tricks Tarquin had got to the man in white coal, and bribed him to give Prezza a pasty shampoo in front of the world's press?

But no. The happy clappies clapped happily, and Prezza did a short chaotic homily on local unemployment "in the 18 to 25 years", before introducing a man "no lives next door to Zeb Coe". but was nevertheless voting Labour.

Such folk - asked their opinion on camera - usually grunt into the hoods of their parkas. But not Seh's neighbour. With a practised turn to camera this chap recled off a list of emotional reasons why he wanted Coc out and Labour in, involving his children, his grand-children, his collie Petra, and the starving of the world. And all without a

With that Prezza (now headed for Plymouth and Exeter) handed back to Tony in the London studio, "My thanks, John!" said the Leader. "Cheerio. Tom!" said Prezza. It was a knockout,

Major's grammar scheme is ditched

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

John Major's plans to put a grammar school in every town have been ditched in order to allow the Government to push through its other legislation before the election.

Plans to allow new selective schools to be built and also to allow existing schools to select more pupils without special permission have been dropped. Clauses which would have enabled grant-maintained schools to expand at will have also been removed from the Bill.

Last night's announcement was made after detailed negouations between the three main political parties on the future of all the Government's remaining

However, measures designed to improve school discipline and to give governing bodies new powers to exclude children

were accepted by all sides. Labour and the Liberal Democrats tried to stop measures which would expand the assist-

schools. However, ministers argued that about 150 pupils who expected to take up places under the scheme this September could be prevented from doing so if the clause was dropped, and it was finally agreed that it

should stay in. The agreement means that the rest of the Government's legislative programme will go through before Parliament hreaks up for the Easter break on Friday.

As soon as MPs return on 8 April the house will be dissolved for the general election.

Some 28 Bills and at least nine pieces of backbench leg-

As the poll war began in

carnest, one question preoccu-

pied political commentators

and voters. Not the health ser-

vice, nor education, but Ken

Because, as the hairspray adverts of the 1970s so neatly

put it, it appeared the Chan-

cellor of the Exchequer's new

hairstyle, swept back from his

forehead in a dashing brown

His usual leave-it-where-it-

falls hairstyle had become, ac-

Clarke - Is He or Isn't He?

Jojo Moyes

ceive Royal Assent before the end of the week.

Debates are likely to continue late into the night in order to meet the deadline, but measures such as the Police Bill, which legalises the bugging of private property, and the Crime Bill, which imposes minimum sentences on persistent of-fenders, will be passed. The Crime Bill was passed by peers last night despite opposition from Tory law lords.

Peers were also due to complete debate on the Local Government and Rating Bill, which allows reduced rates for small village shops, and a backbench measure on police health and

Today they are to pass the Fi nance Bill, enacting the 1996 Budget, the Education Bill, the Crime and Punishment (Scotland) Bill, the Building Societies Bill, four minor government Bills, and five backbench Bills. MPs will today complete debate on the Police Bill and the

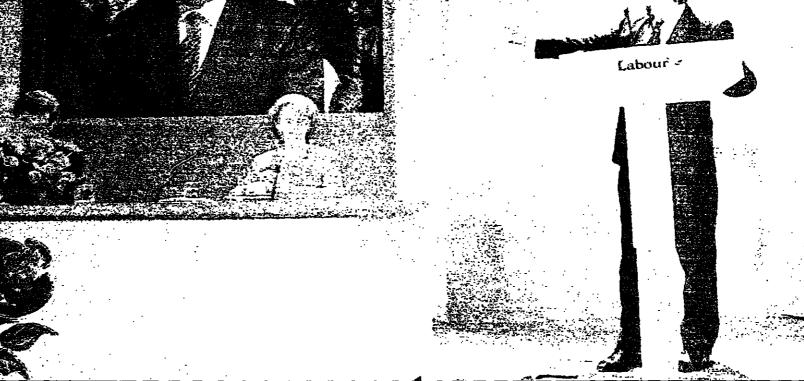
Government's anti-harassment bill, among others. sion to the Crown Bill will not

survive this Parliament. Lord Archer has agreed to withdraw his Bill, which was to have had its second reading on

A Labour source said later that the party had agreed with government proposals for a sensible way forward on the Education Bill: "We make no apology for refusing to accept those elements of the Bill with which we disagree.
"There is a basic difference

between the two parties on the definition of parental choice. "We believe in parents choosing schools for their children. The Tories believe that schools





Larger than life: John Prescott being beamed in from his 10,000-mile round-Britain tour to join Labour's first election press conference yesterday

Election timetable saves cash-for-questions MP

Westminster Correspondent

Neil Hamilton, the MP at the centre of the cash-for-questions scandal, acted in a way that was inappropriate to his proper role as an MP, according to the report into the affair by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, Sir Gordon Downey. The report was due to be completed by next Tuesday but now cannot be published because Parliament

prorogues on Friday. Sir Gordon's report was to have been presented to the aliparty Standards and Privileges Committee next week but this is now not possible and he will should choose the parents." | hold on top his report to the new

ment resumes.

Sir Gordon is thought to be angry that after working very hard for several months in order to meet the deadline of the election, publication is now being delayed.

The report, which is a wide investigation into the relationship between lobbyists and MPs, and into whether certain MPs accepted money to ask specific questions in the House, mentions around 30 MPs. but only five or six are the subject of severe criticism. While Mr Hamilton is said by Sir Gordon to have overstepped the mark most seriously, others whose bebaviour is singled out include

four other Tories: Sir Michael

drew Bowden and Tim Smith. The MPs have all been shown the extracts in the report

which relate to them. All except Sir Michael will now be standing in the election with a cloud banging over them and the prospect of facing a Labourmated Standards and Privileges Committee which is likely to take a harder line on them than the current Tory-dominated body

Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat MP for Bermondsey, suggested at Prime Minister's Question Time that John Major had deliberately prorogued Parliament early in order to ensure that the Downey report would not be published until af- said.

last year said he wanted the matter cleared up as quickly as possible, replied: "I have no knowledge of when it (the report] will be presented."

Mr Hughes said later: "Parliament is not being dissolved until 8 April, which is 19 days after prorogation. Prorogation and dissolution normally takes place on the same day, and in the three postwar elections when this did not take place, the biggest gap was 14

"Mr Major bas clearly done this on purpose to avoid the embarrassment of having this highly critical report published just before the election," the MP

century, to give every child in

this country pre-school educa-

ucational investment pro-

gramme would also deliver a

"very significant hike" in the

money spent of books and

equipment in schools.

For example, in the first

year, we're committed to an in-

crease that would mean the av-

Mr Foster said his party's ed-

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS



5/10

Guestions on health led to statistic swapping, as Blair must have known. Given this, he could have had more figures to throw at Major.

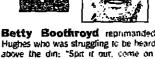
John Major had had his fingers burned by Stair on health before. This time he was better briefed, concentrating on the Conservative pledge to in-Major crease investment, and peppering his replies with figures.

Blair's first statistic, "two thirds of health authorities and a third of hospital trusts are in deficit to the tune of \$300m" was dismissed by Major as "blown out of all proportion". Only the Conservatives have pledged to increase fund ing. Major said, and it was about to rise by £1.6bn which would cover the deficit. Blair replied that it would not cover the deficit, and spoke of carcellation of non-emergency surgery, closure of Accident and Emergency departments, walting lists and starf stronages, contrasting Major's "complacency" with "what people know is happening". He used a favourite health statistic, of "20,000 new managers and 50,000 fewer nurses". Major replied with yet more statistics and a new slogan: "They may have set up the Health

*The timing of the prorogation of Parliament (Simon Hughes, L.D., South-• The success of the McLaren motor-racing team (Sir Cranley Onslow, C, Wok

 The 'low-status' Shadow Cabinet (John Syles, C, Scarborough) Major's self-by and use-by dates (Robert Wareing, Lab, Liverpool West Der





. nurses ... and, er, patients".

Hughes who was struggling to be heard above the din: "Sprt it out, come on There's no point in waiting for silence, the Han, Gentleman is not going to get it."



Sykes: "What would my Pt. Hon. Friend do if all he had to choose from for his Cabinet was a group of failed teachers, a group of ex-trade union officials, one TV director and a bar steward. Major, who once applied to become a bus conductor, avoided THE REPORT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF T



Major told Hughes: "one of the reasons for making the anment on Monday and arranging for Parliament to be prorogued Finday was to give the Hon. Gentleman time to finish



Onslow: "Following the very successful visit this morning to the headquarters of the McLaren Formula One team in my con-stituency, would my Pit. Hon. Friend agree with me that what counts is not who is ahead at the first comer, but who has the skill, expertise, the stamina and the nerve to see the race right

Compiled by Ben Summers

PANASONIC I LEXMARK APPLE X KYOCERA **⊅** OKI **CANON** I NEC We're No.2 - and look who we've beaten*

Clarke: Image transplant crest, may have had a little

and Michael Heseltine". Under the lights of a news conference. cording to one onlooker, "a it shone a deep shade of chestcross between Michael Portillo nut that looks likely to have

fashion followers demanding a "Ken". Yesterday's abrupt change of image - the hair. colour-coordinated pink tie against blue shirt, the suit a pale shade of taupe - suggested his latest bruising encounter had been with the image-makers. According to Mary Spillane,

of consultants Color Me Beautiful, the result was "just right". 'There's an element of cheeky machismo about him that is quintessentially British." she said. "They're trying to enhance his sexual appeal. They're playing him as their sex god .. the colours are very European. It's also a subtle two fingers to the Euro-sceptics.

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Ken Clarke ahead in the Ashdown takes a nutty

new-wave fashion stakes approach to education

6 bages ber minute.

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The price of a packet of peanuts, contributed once a week by the average taxpayer, would make a dramatic improvement to education. Paddy Ashdown said yesterday.

Deploring the politicians' and media obsession with predictions, the Liberal Democrat leader told a campaign press conference: "What people want to hear is not predictions of an outcome that no one can predict, but what the parties stand for, how much will it cost and what will be the result."

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income tax. Mr Ashdown said that investment programme would cost the average taxpayer 45p a week.

"That's a packet of peanuts at a local pub." he said. "That's less than half a lottery ticket. But for that you really can do something to save teachers, jobs, to what will be the result."

give kids in this country a £18,000 on to chance of being in a class of 30 already get."

eral Democrats would be pledg-

ing an extra £500m for the

refurbishment of school build-

ings over the five-year lifetime

of a Parliament, as part of its

£2bn-a-year programme for ed-

ucation - and paid for by an ex-

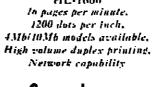
tra penny in the pound on

erage comprehensive school. with 1,000 pupils, would get £110,000, and the average primary school is going to get something in the region of £18,000 on top of the levels they

cation spokesman, said the Lib- or no more by the end of the

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election countdown

Sun readers left cold by decision to back Blair

Louise Jury

The Sun backed Blair and its readers besieged its telephone lines. Though there was a smattering of support for the switch of traditional allegiances vesterday, insiders said most of those calling in were from angry readers.

Dave Burgin, 28, an electrician from Essex was puzzled by what he saw as the sudden volte face. "I was surprised, given what they have been saying for most of the last couple of years," he said.

A Tory voter last time, he said he intended to stay loyal to his party but not necessarily to his newspaper. "I don't know if I'll carry on reading the Sun if they go quite left." he said.

Clive Renno. 39, from Southampton - a colleague working with Mr Burgin on the refurbishment of a hotel in

the Tories last time but would be supporting no one this. "There are too many immigrants in this country and none of the parties do anything about it.

Whatever the Sun said would make no difference. "I don't believe most of what's in the papers anyway," he said. "But I'm surprised. They've always supported the Tory party before and they just suddenly changed."

Among the others working on the hotel refurbishment. most claimed not to read the politics at all - just the sport, the crossword, the cartoons, and even the agony aunt. Yesterday's picture of a female Newcastle United fan in a bikini emblazoned "Ginola" was also a hit. But I don't read anything about Labour or Conservative," said the man serving up

the fried breakfasts. Martin Giles, 35, a plumber, said he was surprised at the backing for Blair, but it would

make no difference to him. "I'd have voted Labour anyway. So close to the election, I don't think it will make a difference.

Many were suspicious of its Wales, said the switch in political allegiance was "two-faced as hell. Murdoch's a businessman. he's there to make money

Martin Ord, 23, from Newcastle, said the minimum wage, not any editorial, would swing his vote. Builders fear a minimum wage will force their salaries down. So contrary to popular opinion. it really could policies not presentation and polemic which decides the election result.

Simon Wilson, 29, the site manager from Leeds, said: "It's in the back of our mind that if Labour come in, we might get a fair crack - the Conservatives have killed the building industry. But more fool them if anybody takes notice of the Sun."



Reading room: Dave Burgin (left) and Clive Renno (centre) taking a break from work yesterday

BBC and ITV vie to host Now your money is leaders' debate

Paul McCann Media Correspondent

The three main party leaders agreed yesterday to appear on separate editions of BBC1's Question Time programme to take questions from the audience while ITV and the BBC stepped up the fight to host a televised head-to-head debate between

Tony Blair and John Major. The two channels dispatched detailed proposals to the three main parties yesterday as Chan-nel 4 and BBC2 revealed that they had both signed up the three contenders for Chancellor of the Exchequer. Chancel ior Kenneth Clarke will join Labour's Gordon Brown and the Liberal Democrats' Mal-People, a television discussion on Channel 4 on 27 April. The three have agreed to be ques-tioned on the economy by an audience of 300 selected to

represent the British public. The audience will be given impartial political briefings before being allowed to cross-examine in turn the candidates. and will be quizzed on their voting intentions before and after

the politicians' answers. After Easter, Peter Jay, the BBC's economics editor, will present a debate for BBC2's The Money Programme on 6 April which will also put Mr Clarke, Mr Brown and Mr Bruce head to head.

ITV sent detailed proposals to the parties for a televised debate between their leaders yesterday and insisted that it was still in the running to host the debate. It is understood to be proposing having Mr Major and Mr Blair debating head to

head, followed immediately by a contribution from Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown.

However, the BBC has emerged as frontrunner by proposing three separate debates: Major-Ashdown, Blair-Ashdown and Major-Blair, which Liberal Democrat sources say they will accept. The BBC also announced that the three leaders would ap-



pear separately on a series of Question Time specials hosted by David Dimbleby from 3 April and take questions from the audience. The Scottish and Welsh nationalist party leaders would appear together in a separate programme.

Mr Ashdown said yesterday that 80 per cent of people wanted him to take part in a threeway contest with Mr Blair and Mr Major. He told GMTV it was "arrogant" for the Prime Minister or Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, to decide who would be included in the debate. The Tories have suggested that Mr Ashdown should not take part because he has little chance of getting to Downing Street.

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مكذا من الأصل

Bulldozers blast trail for new settlement

حكذا من الأمل

Israel uses army to ensure that no Palestinians protest near construction site

Patrick Cockburn Har Homa

At 3pm, the yellow bulldozer started scraping away earth and rock on the northern flank of Har Homa, the pine-covered hill where the Israeli government is building a Jewish set-tlement to secure its control. over Jerusalem.

The government had given the impression that it would start gently, by sending in teams

Instead four buildozers, surrounded by soldiers and police, with a military helicopter clattering overhead, started cutting an access road through the brown earth beside the football. field of the Palestinian village of

Zur Bahir. In a few weeks, Israeli con-tractors will have stripped Har-Homa, known to Palestinians as Jabai Abu Jhneim, of its trees, which make the hill look like a long, green island stretching between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. When the building project is complete, Har Homa will become home to some 27,000 Jews in 6,500 apartments, isolating Palestinian districts in Jerusalem from those outside.

A mile away, and out of sight of where Israeli bulldozers were starting to work on the northern end of Har Homa, Faisal Husseini, the Palestinian

tablished a small camp of six tents beside a half-built house on a neighbouring hill from which he was orchestrating protests. "We are trying to say to Israel that the peace process is dying," he told a crowd of reporters and supporters who had clambered up the hillside

outside his tent.

Israel had originally said it wanted Mr Hussemi off the hill by morning and if he did not go its forces would remove him. But, perhaps reflecting that such a confrontation, conducted before a dozen television cameras, could only benefit Mr

troops near his tent, huddled in a house to keep out of the rain, made no effort to dislodge him. Nevertheless, Mr Husseini said: "They are pushing us from being officials and negotiators to

becoming [political] activists."

Overnight, Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, had re-

tanyahu, the Israeli leader, to discuss concessions to the Palestinians, such as opening of a port and airport at Gaza, as a quid pro quo for the building of the settlement at Har Homa.

'No trade." said Abu Alaa. a chief Palestinian negotiator. who had joined Mr Husseini in his tent. He said the concessions Israel was now offering it had already agreed to make as part of the interim peace agree-ment signed in 1995. Salah al-Taamari, the most important political leader in Bethlehem. said it would be difficult for Mr Arafat to meet Mr Netanyahu now, because he was "so arro-

gant, so rude, so racist".

Despite the verbal clashes. both Israelis and Palestinians were being restrained on the ground. Although there were reports of Israeli troops massing around Har Homa vesterday morning, they were difficult to find on the ground. Close to the most likely confrontation point there were only about 200 sol-

leader Salah Taamari beside the tents which Palestinians have put up on a hill near the disputed Jewish settlement of Har Photograph: AP

diers. As night fell, Palestinian hovs from the nearby Christian town of Beit Sahour started throwing stones at Israeli troops on the road to Har Homa but the soldiers did not respond.

The ground-breaking by the Israeli bulldozers was out of sight of the Palestinian towns to the south. Three Israeli Arabs trying to demonstrate were hit by rifle butts, but otherwise

there was little violence. Reasons for this restraint include the rain and the belief that confrontation over Har Homa will go on for a long time. But the hiegest motive is that both sides are conscious the world is watching, Palestinians feel that Israel is isolated as never before. They think that if Palestinians were seen to start violence then they might forfeit international sympathy.

Mr Netanyahu yesterday evening accused Mr Arafat of aiding potential bombers by releasing a senior Hamas leader. Mr Arafat, for his part. has ordered Palestinian hospitals to get beds ready, though he probably wants to squeeze the maximum political advantage out of the crisis over Har Homa without provoking a confrontation which he would be unable to control.

At the same time there are so many points of friction between Israelis and Palestinians on the West Bank that as the political temperature rises it will probably be impossible to avoid a clash leading to heavy casualties.

Mubarak's gadfly prophesies a peaceful Islamic revolution

a happy man. As an Islamist newspaper editor, be has already paid a fine for allegedly slandering Hassan Alfi, the Egyptian Interior Minister, and now faces further charges of libel for reporting on the business activities of Mr Alfi and his family. Ten Egyptian police generals, he claims, have now set up a construction company according to the gadfly editor of the twice-weekly Al Shuab, while the courts insist that enquiries into the commercial affairs of a minister are an invasion of privacy.

Mr Hussein, bearded, bespeciacled but smiling broadly, sits in the office of his cramped apartment in a black robe, family photographs on the walls, the word Allah written in Arabic script in front of the library.

President Hosni Mubarak, they say, personally loathes the diminutive editor and Mr Hussem clearly doesn't object to the rumour. He sees Egypt as ever more deeply wounded by its involvement in the Arab-Israeli peace process, ever more in hock to a United States whose. policies it must obey, ever more socially divided between the rich who prosper on the country's improving balance of payments and the army of poor who find life more expensive and

more intolerable by the week. And there are times when Egypt seems to fit Mr Hussem's description. The suburbs and villages around Cairo are places of unuttenable squalor, a fearful comparison with the glitzy hotels, nightches and island apartments in the centre of the city, while America's grip appears to grow tighter.

Why, only last month, the FBI director, Louis Freeh. opened an investigative office in downtown Cairo "to exchange information," according to Mr Alfi, "and to co-operate with the. Egyptian authorities in all aspects of security ... some crimes require more action, co-operation and exchange of informa-



Robert Fisk meets the editor whose literary barbs have outraged Egypt's president

security services." Mr Freeh had just opened an identical office in Tel Aviv. It was part of an expansion, in the words of the United States embassy in sponsibilities".

Mr Hussein notes that in-

ternational security co-operation moves laterally across the Arab world, and that Algeria and Tunisia are now using identical torture techniques to those employed by security police in Egypt. The experience of investigating and interrogating suspects is being shared by the Egyptians," he says. "In Tunisia they even call the different tortures by the same names as the Egyptians - by the names of popular Egyptian singers, like Abdul-Halim Hafez and Shadia. They are exchanging experiences between themselves, exchanging information about people, about those men who fought in Afghanistan. They are filling in spaces in each oth-

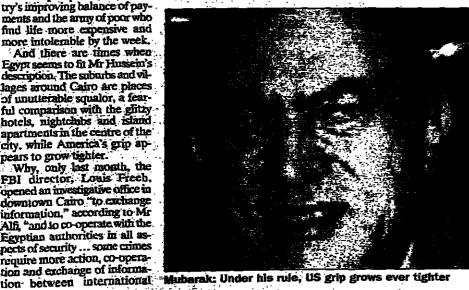
er's information." The "Afghanis", the Arabs

who fought the Soviets in Afghanistan, are widely defined by Egypt, Algeria and oth-er Maghreb countries as the font of the "Islamist" revolution.

Hussein sees the Mubarak government's fist tightening on Muslim institutions in Egypt. "You cannot give lessons in the mosque without a government licence," be says. "No charitable collection can be made without a licence. Until now, Muslims could eat and sleep at their mosques in the last 10 days of Ramadan to pray together, a tradition that has existed since the 14th century. Now this has been stopped; it is an attack on the people's liberty."

Egypt's efforts to curtail the spread of unrestricted charities is, of course, an attempt to pre-vent the Gema'a Islamiya (Islamic Group) and other armed opponents of the government from soliciting funds.

Mr Mubarak's least favourite editor has equally little time for his country's relations with



Israel. "Nobody has any confidence in Israel. People here are angry about Jerusalem, about what happened in Qana. But they are desperate people. There is no way they can fight Israel - Israel is our destiny. The Israelis are going to implement their project, however much we protest. We shout, and they work on the ground. They are not angry about us as long as we go on shouting. I'll g example: commerce between Egypt and Israel increased by 135 per cent in the first nine months of 1996, and half of this time Israel was run by Benjamin] Netanyahu. The Israelis don't think it's important if Egyptian journalists write

Mr Hussein still envisages an

Islamic revolution in Egypt "in

against them."

10 or 20 years". He bursts into laughter when my eyebrows rise in astonishment. But he insists Egypt's revolution will be a peaceful one. Algeria is not his role model. "In Algeria, Isfamists had already taken over local authorities and were about to win national elections when they were crushed. The Algerians are more severe and tougher than the Egyptians. They are a mountain people we are a people of the plain. The Algerians use the mountains to hide in, they have forests in which they can shelter. Here, we have no shelters. Here, our mountains are far from cities - in Algeria, the mountains are close to the cities. Bosnia and Afghanistan are geographically similar to the mountains of Algeria. You need mountains and woods to have a guerrilla war. That's why such a war is difficult in Palestine. I believe geography is very im-portant in political analysis."

So, presumably, does Mr Mubarak, whose security police have set up their scruffy checkpoints on the Nile roads south of Cairo, isolating each town and city from each other whenever the mood takes them.

The President, it seems, has understood the advantage of having a flat country.



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China rids itself of unwelcome guest

Teresa Poole Peking

The story so far has had all the elements of a Cold War thriller. The question now is whether Hwang Jang Yop will enjoy a comfortable retirement in the free world, or soon become a victim of a North Korean hit souad.

the free world, or soon become a victim of a North Korean hit squad.

Mr Hwang, the highest-level official ever to defect from the last hard-line Stalinist state, was believed to have spent last night in the northern Philippines town of Baguio after being spirited out of Peking yesterday morning. In Seoul, the South Korean spokesman, Lee Kyu Hyung, said: "With the co-operation of a third country we have him staying in a secure and safe place. He is under our control."

From the moment Mr Hwang sought refuge on 12 February in the consular

From the moment Mr Hwang sought refuge on 12 February in the consular section of the South Korean embassy in Peking, China had struggled to rid itself of a diplomatic nuisance. The trick was not to offend Pyongyang, with whom it formerly boasted a relationship "as close as lips and teeth", while dispatching Mr Hwang to his preferred goal of Seoul, with whom Peking enjoys a thriving trade relationship. Few countries were prepared to offer the defector a face-saving stopover, until the Philippings stepped in

Philippines stepped in.

From his flight to the South Korean

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with P Gar said North Korean defector is spirited away to Philippines

consulate in a Peking taxi, after shaking off his minders on a shopping trip, Mr Hwang's escape has been the stuff of spy drama. The 73-year-old ranked 24th in Pyongyang's political hierarchy, and was one of the ideologues of North Korea's political dogma. Initially the defection flushed out

Initially the defection flushed out the legions of North Koreans in Peking, who staked out the consular building with their lapel badges of the late Great Leader. Kim Il Sung, unprecedentedly pinned inside their jackets. Chinese armoured personnel carriers and soldiers soon ringed the compound, a wise precaution given at least one attempt at infiltration by a

North Korean commando squad.
Yesterday's journey out of China started with a ruse, a Sunday-night decoy convoy of dark-windowed minituses which travelled from the consulate to the airport. But it was not until Monday evening that they repeated the show — with the real Mr Hwang on board. There was heavy Chinese security around all South Korean buildings.

lief after seeing Mr Hwang reach the Philippines alive. For the past five weeks Peking has been walking a diplomatic tightrope. So sensitive is the incident, that all that was said in a terse official statement last night was that Mr Hwang had left of his own free will. Mr Hwang is expected to spend at least a week in the Philippines before proceeding to South Korea, where he faces life under protective armed guard.

The defector leaves behind in North Korea a family which, if widespread reports can be believed, faces execution or dispatch to the labour camps. Demoted from their privileged existence, they, like all ordinary North Koreans, will be hungry.

Koreans, will be hungry.

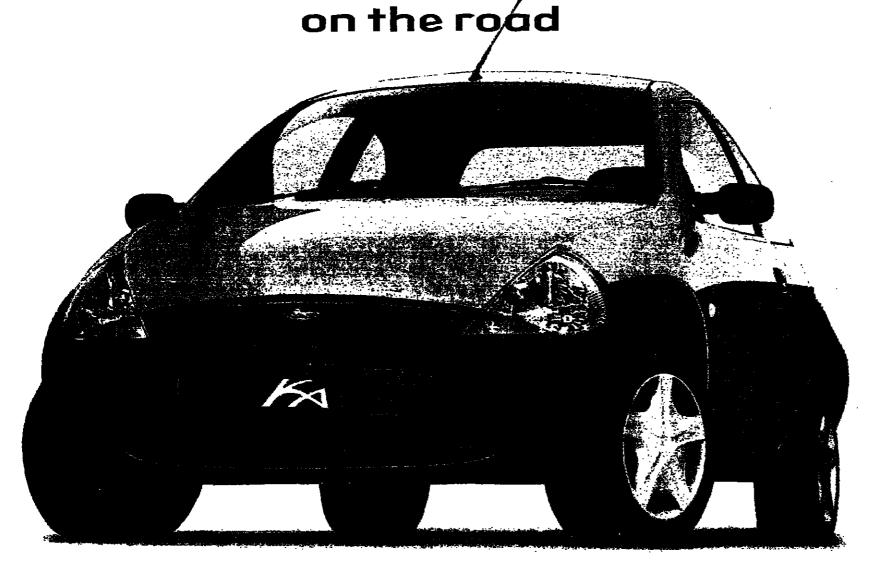
The executive director of the World Food Programme, Catherine Bertini, yesterday flew back to Peking after a fact-finding mission in North Korea. Centrally distributed food rations had dropped to 350 calories a day, except for people taking part in manual-labour programmes to restore land damaged in the floods of 1995 and 1996, she said. Children were suffering from stunted growth. Roots and dried leaves were all that was available to augment the meagre rations, which will soon run out unless international food aid is stepped up, Ms Bertini added. A new WFP appeal will attempt to reach all children under six.



tempt to reach all children under six. Fall out: A Greenpeace boat in action during the arrival yesterday of the Pacific Teal in Japan

tograph: Reuters

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Japanese give atom-waste ship a hot reception

Richard Lloyd Party Tokyo

A British ship carrying highly radioactive plutonium waste was met by protesters in Japan yesterday, a week after the country's most serious nuclear accident. Some 300 demonstrators turned out for the arrival of the *Pacific Teal*, which docked at the village of Rokkasho.

Two Greenpeace boats sailed close to the vessel and activists displayed banners saying, "No Nuclear Waste" and "Stop Nuclear Power". There was a scuffle with police but by yesterday evening unloading of the cargo was well under way.

The vessel's 20 tons of nuclear waste was the second such shipment under an agreement between Japanese utilities and European power companies – British Nuclear Fuels and Cogema of France. Japan has limited facilities for reprocessing and sends spent fuel rods abroad via long sea routes, which have provoked international unease about their vulnerability to accident or

terrorist attack. The reprocessed waste is shipped back to Japan in vitrified blocks, which will be stored in Rokkasho for as long as 50 years before being buried. Environmentalists say the waste is so radioactive that an unshielded bystander would receive a lethal dose in less than a moute.

dose in less than a minute.

A week before the *Pacific Teal* arrived, a fire and explosion at the country's only reprocessing facility released radiation and contaminated 37 workers.

The authorities at the Tokai plant insist that the amounts of radioactivity which were released were negligible but every day has brought disclosures about a number of communication failures and breaches of official procedure.

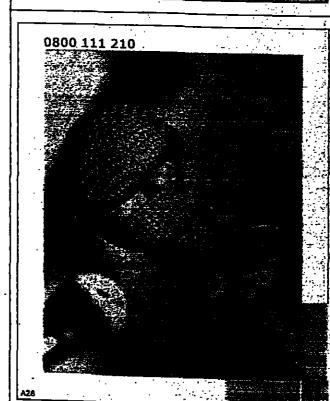
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Yesterday Japanese newspapers reported that the central government turned a blind eye to short cuts in fireproofing the ill-fated plant

ill-fated plant.

Central and local government officials were not informed until hours after the fire, which was allowed to smoulder unattended and cause the later, potentially lethal explosion.





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international

significant shorts

Chinese party leader thwarts rival's challenge

China's Communist Party chief, Jiang Zemin, has barred his predecessor, Zhao Ziyang, from returning to Peking from the provinces, fearing a challenge to his grip on power. Chinese sources said. The reformist Mr Zhao was toppled as party chief in 1989, when the army crushed a pro-democracy movement. The news seems to indicate a rise in factional tension in China.

CNN beams from Havana

The CNN television network launched broadcasts from its new bureau in Havana, the first time in 28 years a US media outlet has worked from a permanent bureau on

Cairo's act of faith

The Egyptian antiquities department announced it was looking for a contractor to restore one of Egypt's oldest Coptic churches, the Hanging Church in Old Cairo. The church, which is probably 1,300 years old, has had severe structural problems for years.

Reuters – Cairo

EU in 'mid-life' crisis

The European Union is approaching "a mid-life crisis" and must engage in self-reflection to find its new purpos President Mary Robinson of Ireland said. She said the EU - marking its 40th anniversary this year - must pause and reflect as it enters "the most crucial and challenging phase in its development".

AP - Utracht

Miss Universe figures it out

Irene Saez, a former Miss Universe, is preparing to announce a bid for president of Venezuela next year. "I know the moment will come to ... take a firm decision," she said. She was Miss Universe in 1981 and is now mayor of the district of Chacao in Caracas. Reuters - Caracas

Top brass set for the boot

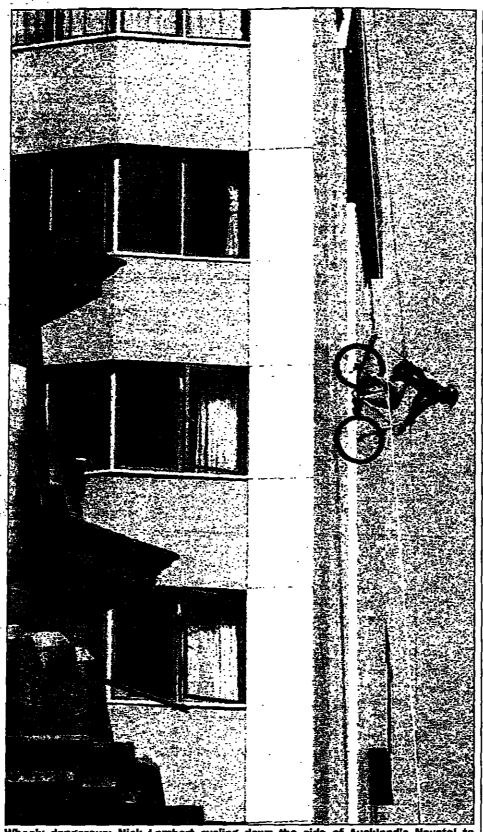
Igor Rodionov, Russia's Defence Minister, indicated that the dismissal of several top commanders was imminent. He also said airborne forces would be made subordinate to the ground forces.

UN role for James Baker

The former US secretary of state James Baker was named as envoy of the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, for Western Sahara, whose future has been in contention. since Spain withdrew in 1976.

Man dies in stamp stampede

A man died in a stampede to buy the last Hong Kong stamps featuring the Queen's head, which is no longer printed on stamps in the colony. Those carrying it will cease to be valid on 1 July, when the territory is handed



Wheely dangerous: Nick Lambert cycling down the side of Auckland's Novotel to

German soldiers attack youths in racist rampage

Spectre of pogrom returns to embarrass army

حكدًا من الأصل

The German army's long march to international respectability suffered a reverse in the small town of Detroold on Monday night, as 10 of its soldiers marked out for peace-keeping duty staged a mini-pogrom.

Shouting "Wogs out of Ger-many", the uniformed conscripts in combat helmets rampaged through the centre in search of foreigners, attacking a 16-year-old Italian boy and two Turkish youths with baseball bats, knives and spades. All 10 were soldiers of the 3rd

Panzer Battalion, stationed at a barracks named after Field Marshal Erwin Rommel. They had completed two months of training in the Bundeswehr (army), and were about to be transferred to Bosnia. They were to help foreigners," said Major Uwe Hindsches, the battation's deputy commander. The guilty 10, he assured the public. were now off the Bosnia list.

The perpetrators were aged most had come to the west German base from the cast, and there appeared to be no doubt of their racist intentions. After a heavy night's drinking, they set off from their last watering hole at about half-past nine, hunting for "Kanacken" - the derogatory term for Turks.

The Italian was the first to srumble into their way. They beat him up, threatened to slit his throat and left him lying on the pavement. "Where are the wogs?" they asked passers-by. The two Turks, aged 16 and 17 respectively, appeared to fit the bill, and were duly kicked attack, "We express our regret



senseless. The lads themselves sustained no injuries.

It was only a few days ago that German troops were hailed for their gailantry and newly found self-confidence. They were the heroes of last Friday's chaotic evacuation of Westerners from Albania, at one point exchanging fire with local thugs.

Now Germans are wondering whether the lessons in assertiveness might have gone a bit too far. A spokesman from the Rommel barracks stressed yesterday that the conscripts had also been lectured on how to deal with foreigners, but the subject of neo-Nazism was not on the "political studies" syllabus.

The top brass, who in a report issued last week found no evidence of organised right-wing extremism in the Bundeswehr, were quick to apologise for the attack by soldiers on foreigners in Photograph: Reuters

Germany's

Defence Minister.

during a

meeting in

yesterday

after the

to our foreign citizens for the soldiers' shameful actions," said Volker Rühe, the Defence Minstaff, General Hartmut Bagger. in a joint statement. They vowed to putsue "all possible legal and disciplinary measures" against the Detmold 10, one of whom was still on the run last night.

No links to extremist organisations have so far been uncovered, though police are aware that the neo-Nazis have a centre near Detmold. The army keeps a close watch on extremists within its ranks. According to the latest annual report. 56 sol diers - including 11 NCO's and one lieutenant - were convicted last year of racism. A 22-year-old former soldier is due to go on trial next month for the attempted murder of an Italian, an

Zaire's new lion king snaps at the heels of ailing president

Ed O'Loughlin

Zuirean rebel leader Laurent Kabila may not have won his war, yet, but he has already had

vesterday as thousands of people crammed into town to watch the rebels celebrate the weekend capture of Kisangani, a strategic victory that could fin-

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Mobum Sese Seko once and for Mr Kabila has already rein-

For Mr Kabila, veteran of and flag which he failed to dethree decades of anti-Mobutu struggle, the occasion was a personal and symbolic triumph. s victory parade.

The parade was led by officials
Goma came to a standstill
of the rebel Ministry of Information, Communication, Press and Propaganda, each wrapped in the seven-starred flag of the short-lived Congo Republic.

In the territory he controlsish off the ailing President at least a sixth of the country -

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yet plucked up the courage to ask the rebels what this means. Yesterday, wearing a stetson and a broad smile, eastern Zaire's new lion king faced his people from a plush armchair, istening to their cheers. Behind him his entourage of officials and soldiers jammed onto a large concrete podium special-

> when Mr Mobutu was still in charge of these parts. For while the symbols and faces were different, veteran Zaire-watchers noted that the style was eemly the same. A tin roof sheltered the dignitaries from the tropical downpour which broke out shortly after the ceremony kicked off, almost two

ly constructed for such occasions

stated the post-colonial name

fend against the Mobutist coup of 1965.

government has puzzled foreign observers. Their new official

seal, stamped on all government

documents, features a lion's

snarling head. On closer in-

spection, this turns out to be the

lion character from Disney's

film The Lion King. Nobody has

Another symbol of the rebel

hours late. The townspeople stood huddled in the rain. Rebel soldiers divided their time between whipping the crowd into line with sticks and glowering at the musicians and the people in the parade. One Kalashnikov-toting soldier, who could not have been more than 10 years old, was whisked away when too many foreign camera-

was playing jaunty tunes in bossa-nova and quick-waltz time.

The people paraded in little groups - first the staff of the rebel ministries, then other public servants, then the people of the town. There were agricultural societies, a guild of shoethe crowd. Many banners had been hastily altered, the words "Congo" pasted on where "Zaire" had evidently been dis-

played many times before. In another echo of days gone by, the slogan for the event was - a cry heard in country after country during the 1960s as the European colonial powers withdrew from Africa. But when the cries died down yesterday, Mr Kabila returned briskly to the present, and a struggle which seems almost, but not quite, won.

Among those waving banners in the crowd were members of the Union for Democracy and Social Progress, Zaire's main legal opposition group. With victory in sight, many groups are seeking to climb aboard the

rebel bandwagon. The rebels believe the peoples of old Zaire are swinging to their side. "In Kinshasa people are happy," Mr Kabila told the cheering crowd. "But people like Mobutu and his family are already packing their bags." And, even after years of pillage, misrule and conflict, there lenses swung towards him. was optimism in the air. Prime Minister loses his place Leon Kengo Wa Dondo, the Zairean Prime Minister, was removed from office yesterday, a spokesman for the country's parliament said. The unpopular leader was toppled only hours after he left for Nairobi, Kenya, to attend an international meeting on civil war in Zaire. There had been many rumours earlier in the day that he would be prevented from leaving the country to represent Zaire at the summit. HOUSE INSURANCE SAVE **50%** MORE C.S. LONDON & HOME COUNTIES £100,000 Buildings Sum Insured Premium Only £154.00 OWER Premiums in most Other Areas 0345 123111

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Finns shun prospect of security in larger Nato

Tony Barber Helsinki

The Finnish government is sticking to its policy of not joining Nato despite the prospect that most European security issues could soon be decided by an enlarged alliance in concert with Russia.

"Finland is not the focus of threats, for the prevention or repulsion of which security guarantees from a military alliance would be necessary. Finland's non-participation in military alliances supports stability in northern Europe," said a government report on defence issued this week.

Despite this firm statement, some Finnish experts say Finland may have to reconsider. Since Nato is preparing to embrace several former Communist states in Eastern Europe, and is seeking a special security relationship with Russia, Finland could be in danger of losing influence over mat-

ters directly affecting its security, they say.

The emergence of an enlarged Nato with a wider mandate to deal with European security problems. and with a co-operative relationship with Russia, would constitute a new European security order. said Max Jakobson, a former Finnish ambassador to the United Nations. To remain outside of Nato is to be without a seat at the table where the de-

cisions on European security will be made." Finland's neutrality after the Second World War was based on a delicate formula which combined Western-style freedom at home with a scrupulous care not to annoy the Soviet Union. The policy was a success in that Soviet Communism ultimately collapsed and Finland became free of its old constraints. But the Cold War years remain a sensitive subject, and many Finns are bitterly critical of the self-censorship of those times.

As a member of the EU since 1995 and of Nato's Partnership for Peace programme, Finland has already drifted away from the old, post-war policy of absolute neutrality. EU membership is more popular in Finland than in neighbouring Sweden partly because, as the government report observes, it

"strengthens Finland's security position".
That sense of security could diminish if Nato's enlargement goes wrong and Russian-Western relations deteriorate. "Finland is striving to ensure that neither Nato enlargement nor whatever treaty arrangement the alliance arrives at with Russia leads to the emergence of lines of division or spheres of interest that would detract from stability in northern Europe," the government report says. There is particular concern for the Baltic states, above all Estonia, to which Finns feel closest.



Face to face: A pedestrian in Helsinki passing a poster of Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin; the two leaders are to meet for a two-day summit in the Finnish capital tomorrow Photograph: Reuter Photograph: Reuter

Clinton's CIA nominee gives up in disgust

The surprise withdrawal of Anthony Lake, nominee to head the Central Intelligence Agency, is a large embarrassment for President Bill Clinton, another body-blow for the demoralised CIA but above all proof of how the campaign fund-raising row has bred a

bitter partisanship that is poisoning politics and government.
On Monday the patience of the mild Mr Lake, for four years Mr Clinton's National Security Adviser, snapped with what he called a "political circus". Having refused every presi-dential entreaty to stick out his ordeal, he delivered a resignation letter declaring Washington "had gone baywire" and damning a system that "was nasty,

brutish, but anything but short The White House said the grilling Mr Lake was subjected to before the Senate Intelligence Committee proved only that the confirmation process was "inexcusably flawed. But Richard Shelby, the Democrat-turned-Republican who chairs the committee, and led the inquisition, was unrepentant. The vetting process "should be rigorous," he said, and Mr Lake

had not passed muster. Few expected Mr Lake to throw in the towel now, after having put up with so much. Despite the sniping, he had majority support in the committee and almost certainly in the full Senate thereafter.

But new obstacles, notably press reports alleging the De-mocratic National Committee improperly lobbied the National Security Council and the CIA for favourable treatment for a Lebanese-American cam-

Lake: snapped with what he called the 'political circus'

Former adviser condemns Washington for 'going haywire'

aign donor, were threatening further delay, and Mr Lake decided he had been hung out to dry long enough.

He thus becomes the latest victim of the dispute over Democratic fund-raising for the 1996 campaign, into which the White House and the NSC are being sucked steadily deeper.

It is one reason for the delay m key ambassadorial appoint-ments, notably to Paris and London, and for the new impasse in negotiations for a bal-

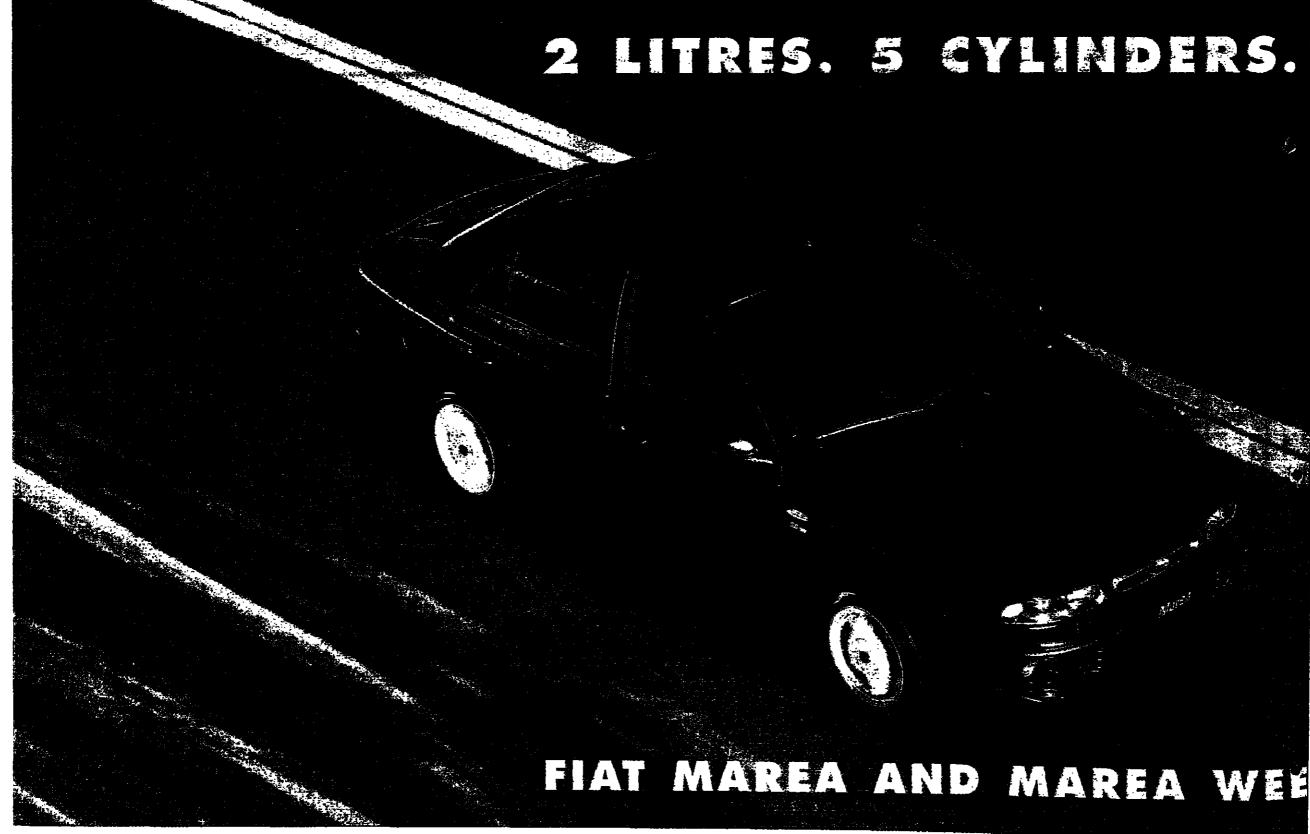
anced budget. But it has also long been clear the Republicans were determined to claim at least one scalp among Mr Clinton's secondterm nominees, if only to prove they were masters on Capitol Hill and avenge themselves for past Republican nominees shot down by a Democratic Congress. And once the campaignfunds rumpus heated up. Mr Lake was always the most vulnerable link in the chain.

By Monday even Democrats were expressing astonishment that he knew nothing of FBI warnings last year to two NSC staffers that China might be seeking to suborn the US political process. If he could not keep abreast of such issues in the NSC, they argued, how could be claim the managemen skills to handle the country's far larger intelligence empire?

The biggest victim is again the CIA. Mr Clinton must move swiftly to find a replacement for Mr Lake, and the Intelligence Committee débacle probably increases the chances of George Tenet, acting director, who was once staff director for the committee and a senior NSC offi-cial, before moving to the number-two job at the CIA.
As a solid in-house choice, he

could expect relatively speedy confirmation and for agency employees he would be a bet ter-known quantity than other mooted candidates like Jamie Gorelick, deputy attorney-gen-eral in the first Clinton administration, the former Georgia senator Sam Nunn, and Richard Holbrooke, architect of the Bosnia peace accords.

None however has Mr Lake's access and long intimacy with the President. And whoever survives ordeal by Senator Shelby will have the dubious distinction of being the CIA's fifth director in six years, a list which does not include two nominees who withdrew their nomination. The job turnover is a measure of the disarray of an agency celebrated not for its quiet successes, but for frontpage failures like the Ames espionage case.



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KGB's fight to counter us the cunning chaps in smart suits

Moscow - During the Cold War, agents at the KGB school at Balashikha, outside Moscow, were taught that the CIA was the glavny protivnik, or main en-emy. But they were told to pay special attention to the British, for they had a reputation as the

most subtle spies. Even today Russians love to hate the pinstripe-suited, twofaced Briton as much if not more than the loud American. During last year's presidential election, the nationalist politician Vladimir Zhirinovsky told-Russians to be on the alert for foreign spies of all nationalities but in particular to be cautious of the perfidious British.

"The Russian stereotype of the British is that they are cunning and hypocritical," said Mikhail Lyubimov, head of the British section at KGB headquarters after being expelled from London in 1965. The KGB's wariness of the Secret Intelligence Service, MI6, was nased on more than prejudice. SIS, founded in 1909, was older than Soviet intelligence or the CIA and therefore perceived to have the advantage of experience. Also, Britain had a long history of rivalry with Russia.

"Britain was afraid of tsarist Russian influence in India and Afghanistan. We saw you as being not only anti-Soviet but Russophobic well before the Bolshevik Revolution," Col



in the latest of our series, a former spymaster tells **Helen Womack** that old espionage habits die hard

Lyubimov said over a cup of tea in his Moscow flat. In 1917 Britain was still the glavny protivnik, as the CIA had not been formed. "Britain did all in its power to help those who op-posed the Bolsheviks," said Col Lyubimov, now a writer. But by

6 Philby and Burgess ... the tip of the iceberg 9

the 1930s Soviet intelligence was starting to turn the tables. There was a strong anti-fascist mood across Enrope and people wanted to help us fight Hitler," said Col Lyubimov. This was when the "Magnificent Five", as the Russians call Phil-

ty, Burgess, Maclean, Caimcross and Blunt, were recruited. But they were just the tip of the iceberg. "I can't name names but there were many more," he said. How many? "We're talking in the tens."

During the Second World

War the Allies were supposed to stop spying on each other and pool their efforts. But Stalin, who had made a secret pact with Germany in 1939, suspected the British were not sincere. This was partly because Kim Philby was giving Moscow full reports

the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. that counts but playing the of what the British knew as a re-

sult of having cracked the Germans' Enigma code, which enabled Stalin to see Churchill was not sharing all his information with him.

war turned into cold war, the main source of friction after 1945 being the future of East Europe. Col Lyubimov said the Russians were impressed by the British performance in the struggle for influence over this region. But they were fighting a losing battle and many SIS agents were caught, in part thanks to Philby. For example, 16 Polish generals accused of spying for Britain on Soviet territory were executed, and a British spy called Felix Rumnies was arrested in Latvia. "As you British say, It is not the winning

game'." chuckled the colonel. With the defection of Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean in 1951, SIS entered a long period of crisis as it searched for the

Third Man, Philby, who fled to In an atmosphere of mistrust, Moscow in 1963. Before that, he had been MI6's representative at Langley, Virginia, which meant the British lost much credibility with the increasingly powerful CIA. Moscow now paid more attention to the aclivities of the Americans. Col Lyubimov thinks the trai-

tor who did most damage to the Soviet Union was the military intelligence officer Oleg Penkovsky, who passed secrets to the British businessman Gre-Wynne. Thanks to ville Penkovsky, the West realised Khrushchev was bluffing during Unless they are mistaken, the

Penkovsky was executed; Wynne, who was sentenced to eight years in prison, was later swapped for the Soviet spy.

Recruiting agents on Soviet soil was difficult for the British,

Russians believe they intercepted all their citizens who approached or were approached by the British in Moscow. Which is why SIS preferred

to recruit Russians in London Gordon Lonsdale. or third countries. Their most famous catch of recent years was

6 Russians love to hate the two-faced Briton 9

said Col Lyubimov, "KGB surveillance was extremely strong." Back-up staff at embassies were all from the Russian service to diplomats, which automatically reported to the KGB. Rooms and telephones were bugged.

the former London KGB resident Oleg Gordievsky, who began betraving his country in the 1970s, when he worked at the Soviet embassy in Copenhagen. Found out in 1985, he made

a dramatic escape to Britain from Moscow hidden, it is wide-

Patriotism and perfidy: Some of the personalities, real and fictional, who inhabited the dark world of espionage: Maclean (left), Philby, Bond, Wynne and Burgess

Photomontage: Jonathan Anstee

ly helieved, in a diplomatic re-

movai van. The SIS also recruited Ivan Kuzichkin in Iran and Viktor Suvorov in Geneva. Mr Kuzichkin provided information on Moscow's relations with the illegal Iranian Communist Par-ty, while Mr Suvorov revealed military secrets, including details of the operations of the Spetsnatz special forces.

The Cold War is over but last year a tit-for-tat expulsion incident between Moscow and London caused a brief icy blast from the past. Four Russian diplomats were ordered out of Britain after the same number of British diplomats were exnelled from Moscow for having contacts with a young Russian called Platon Obukhov. Mr Obukhov, now awaiting trial for treason, claims that he was gathering material for the lat-est of the popular spy novels which he writes.

Some observers suggested President Boris Yeltsin needed a dispute with Britain, normally now seen as a friendly country, to look tough before the

presidential elections. But Col Lyubimov dismissed this theory, saying there was never smoke without fire; he was sure the British diplomats had been up to something.

"They failed and I can only mpathise with them," said the KGB veteran who, in 1965, was set up by two men "smelling of fish" in a London pub and declared persona non grata in the country he regards as his second

Col Lyubimov said the Obukhov case had contributed to a new Russian suspicion about the British in the era after the Cold War. "Now again, after the cuphoria of the post-Communist period, when we thought we could co-operate. mistrust has returned. I personally don't see a threat but our secret services still think in terms of perfidious Albion. It will take centuries for the cliché



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END IN CIVE OR THE MARTA 2D ELX 4 OR AND MAREA WEEKEND 20 ELX 5 OR PRICES INCLUDE 1595 FOR DELIVERY TO DEALER NUMBER PLATES, VAT AND 12 MC4 THE POAD TURD WEEKEN APPE CORPECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS 4:3747.

artist we in Britain call Constructivist and push aside as an inartistic intellectual. He was admired in France since he turned from graphic art to painting in the mid-1940s, and famous globally since the mid-1960s when he finalised the system that made his art uniquely accessible as well as adaptable. By the end of the 1950s he

was working with small square units, in metal or plastic, on which squares or circles were printed, and also trapezoids, diamonds and ovals (suggesting squares and circles seen obliquely). Assembling these in what seemed an infinity of variations, he could play local colour and pattern events against the optically induced larger forms of the whole. The next step was to produce these units as purchasable sets: with their help we would all become artists, making pictures or murals, or indeed covering whole buildings to our

own satisfaction. The idea was right for the outgoing Sixties. "Everyone his own artist" has a long history ~ going back at least to Mozart's kit of musical phrases to be chosen by rolling dice. But Vasarely's kits were never cheap and the art market has always preferred to deal with unique collectables offering good profit margins. There was a broad movement into creating potentially massproducible "multiples" to which many artists contributed, but the

mood passed. It was natural for Vasarely to see himself as an international figure, a prophet and activator as much as an inventor and maker. But then he was born in Hungary, in 1908, and like a number of other Hungarians most obviously Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, 13 years older - he gave his innate romanticism expres-

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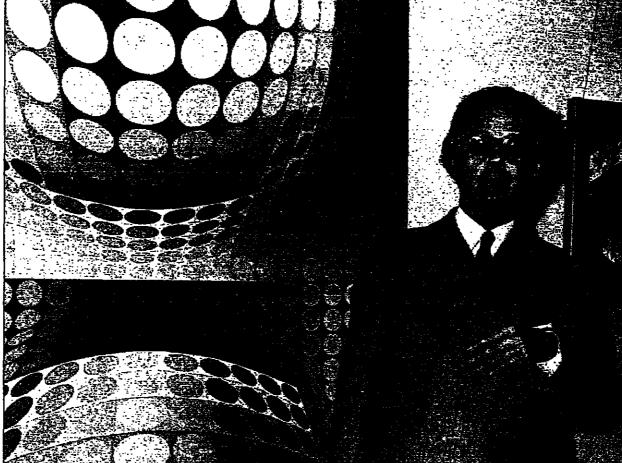
Victor Vasarely was the kind of sion through figurative, semi-Expressionist paintings and drawings during his student years at the Budapest Academy before, through further studies at an art school run by Sandor Bortnik, an old friend of Moholy's, deriving its ideas from the German Bauhaus (and thus in part from Moholy), and opting to tocus the same emotional energies on a more concentrated artistic programme.

Vasarely moved to Paris in

1930, married and had two sons, the younger of whom grew up into the well-known artist Yvaral, He worked at first as a graphic artist and designer, but in 1944 decided to paint again. He had his first Paris solo exhibition that year. at the Galerie Denise René which became and remains prominent as a gallery specialising in abstract geometrical and kinetic art in two and three dimensions. He painted monochrome compositions in which the forms of such creatures as harlequins or zebras were key motifs for an exploration of flat patterns and illusions of space.

When he dropped the images his compositions became more diagrammatic and more explosive in their visual effect. Some of these were multi-level transparencies, hinged together so that their relative positions could be varied and the view through their overlapping linear designs made more, or less, dramatic. In the late 1950s he began to ex-plore optical kinetics in large paintings, gradually introduc-ing barely perceptible colours into arrangements that seemed

to be of black and white only. By 1965 Vasarely and Bridget Riley were seen as leaders of an international movement no one had founded or intend-



r as much as inventor and maker: Vasarely in New York, 1978

1965, "The Responsive Eye". From this time on also dates the public's general loss of interest in Op Art as an abstract form of trompe-l'azil picture-making. It astonished, it dazzled, it could even give one a headache, but it couldn't entertain like Pop Art. Many practitioners of Op opted out or were merely forgotten, but Vasarely and Riley

(a generation younger than him) moved on to higher things. In Riley's case these have been ever richer and more refreshing colour compositions derived from experiences of nature: in Vasarely's they were philosophical as well as artistic, leading him into further study of the ed, but which was celebrated in visual functioning of simple as well as a Vasarely New York in the Museum of geometrical forms, singly and in at Pecs in Hungary.

Modern Art's exhibition of ordered masses, of their capacity for conveying sensations to everyone, and thence also of the practical means whereby artistic compositions of this

sort might be done by everyone.

The "democratisation of art" became his prime concern, and in this he was a true Constructivist - Russian Constructivism had focused Modernism's urge for basics on the desperate needs of a society ruined by war, revolution and civil war. He exhibited busily around the world from 1960 on and into the 1980s. He also founded a Vasarely Institution at Gordes in France and another, directed towards architectural development, at Aix-en-Provence, as well as a Vasarely Museum

in his work and ideas plus the general recession have recentoccasioned the closing of the Aix institute, and the artist's death shortly before his 90th birthday may mark the end of a chapter in modern art as well as his own career. But his contribution was an important one in a century that has demanded vast feats of self-invention from some of its artists whilst

creativity. In asserting "I fight for the debunking of the artist and an end to individual pictures", Vasarely was placing himself at the opposite end to that at which we like to find our artists, compensating for the limited

others have queried the value

Photograph: Hulton Getty Some loss of public interest imaginative and expressive lives we lead ourselves with their dramatic, heart-on-sleeve, often over-the-top productions. But some would argue that the deepest passion demands the most controlled expression. We have the tradition of, say, Bach, Poussin and Mondrian to prove it. Vasarely was of their persussion, and his contribution to that tradition is all the more remarkable in that it was made in a context of post-war figurative

of art-market forces.

Norbert Lynton Gyoezoe Vasarhelyi (Victor Vasarely), artist: born Pecs, Hungary 9 April 1906; married 1930 Claire Spinner (died 1991; two sons), died Paris 15 March 1997.

Dr Anthony Hopkins

Anthony Hopkins, Director of the Research Unit at the Royal College of Physicians since 1988, was a most distinguished and unusual figure in the world

of medicine. His appointment in 1972 as Consultant Neurologist at St Bartholomew's Hospital, Lon-don, was controversial. To Bart's, a hospital which had then the reputation of appointing its own, he was a foreigner, having trained at Guy's. At 35 he was thought too young, and too in-experienced clinically. He had come from the stable of the National Hospital, Queen Square, where he had trained under Roger Gilliatt, whose reputation for academic accuracy, if sometimes combined with an acerbic tongue, occasionally broke through in

Hopkins's own manner.

But he continued to climb, becoming Physician in Charge of the Department of Neuro-logical Sciences at Bart's in 1976. In clinical neurology, he was before his time in many developments. He established "hub and spoke" links (links be-tween the Teaching Hospital and District General Hospital) in the Bart's department some 15 years before it became a term used by the NHS Executive and others. He realised not only that it improved clinical practice and quality of consultant staff, but that it would become a necessity for the survival of specialised units in a changing NHS. We noted, however, that Hopkins remained very

much at the centre of the hub. Major clinical research projects followed, in diverse fields, as he established a neurological department. With Dr Richard Greenwood he carried out tests studying changes in the reflexes in subjects falling from a height, dropping even Edward, his infant youngest son, as part

of his research. A perceptive (and quite unconnected) study on the everyday problem of headaches followed. One of the commonest symptoms of human beings. headaches had been studiously disregarded by most neurologists until Hopkins addressed the subject. Collaborating with sociologists, rather than doctors, he measured the size of the problem, pointing out the cost of 1,600 people per 100,000 consulting a doctor for headache

each year, while fewer than 10 had any serious disease. Several studies on the epidemiology of epilepsy followed, resulting in the publication of Epilepsy (1987). Finally, with Dr Elizabeth Davies, he turned to the care of patients with malignant brain tumours, recordin meticu care which this unfortunate that savage arena between Govgroup of patients and their ernment, health care and the families actually receive. His findings were roundly criticised. having irritated the cancer doctors' establishment, but he was very ready to defend them - and his last words on this matter will

be published posthumously. One common theme ran through these studies. They recorded and researched what



School, his applications an in-dication that he was looking for a role as a leader in the profession. In an unusual but wise move for a clinician in a then flourishing hospital, he left Bart's in 1988 to become Director of the Research Unit of the Royal College of Physicians, a post where he could de-velop his interests in Health Economics. Clinical Effectiveness. Audit and Outcome. He soon penetrated the NHS Executive, and sat on seven of its advisory groups, though he indicated that many colleagues there frustrated him because "they seemed to change their minds so often, following

to patients, in a general popu-lation rather than in an ideal

medical setting. Each, in its way, remains a landmark study.

clinical opinion, medicine at the bedside was not his forte. He

was able to acknowledge this to

those close to him confessing impatience and irritation. It

was however in his writing

about clinical events that he portrayed a softer side, and one of

deep human understanding

Clinical Neurology: a modern ap-

proach (1993) is an example of economy of style, readability

and clinical wisdom. His mid-consultant career

was marred by some personal

disappointment. He failed to be

appointed to the Chair of Medicine at Bart's, and later to the

post of Dean of the Medical

Whilst he gave a first-class

political fashion". Numerous other appointments followed, from work with the Chief Economist on quality and effectiveness measures, through a galaxy of Royal College committees, to liaison with patient support groups, the editorial boards of six journals and the King's Fund Centre Committee. If these were not enough, in addition he managed to be the main author of 10 ma-

jor publications in the last year. Those of us who respected his intellect found ourselves a lifelong ally, and one who was ready to understand our anxietics, and to encourage unusual career moves. Hopkins was suspicious of the present trend of increasing dogged specialism and questioned the value and the effect of cloning specialists who, he argued, would have to carry out progressively mundane work as

their numbers increased. In the weeks before he died. Hopkins was proposed as one of eight candidates for the forthcoming Presidency of the Royal College of Physicians. Whether he would have succeeded remains conjecture, but the seven survivors who strive for election would do well to his understa

medical profession itself. To his friends Anthony Hopkins seemed on the threshold of a new era. This slightly gaunt figure, with a lifelong ambling gait, a shock of dark hair, piercing brown eyes and a slight stoop was unmistakable. Our friendship lasted nearly 20 years, but for many others he was not an easy man, particularly when a combination of his intellectual crisoness and caustic turn of phrase clashed with the medical establishment. It is hard to capture this complex, resolute soul.

Charles Clarke Anthony Philip Hopkins, neurologist: born Poole, Dorset 15 October 1937; Consultant Neurologist, St Bartholomew's Hospital 1972-76, Physician in Charge, Department of Neurological Sci-ences 1976-88; Director, Research Unit, Royal College of Physicians. London 1988-97; married 1965 Elizabeth Wood (three sons); died

Cecil Wilson

Cecil Wilson's dramatic and film criticism reflected the man: quiet, courteous, pointed but not stinging, sane not vain, reluctant to be taken in by the latest trend from Hollywood, Sweden or France and rarely caught going out on a critical limb: but a critic to trust.

Although he must have had a wider readership on the Daih Mail from 1938 to 1990 than most of his Fleet Street con temporaries, Wilson never went about as if he knew it. He knew that criticism must be personal, yet saw no reason to introduce himself into his writing more than was necessary. Yet this unassertive, bespectacled man, whose only concession to sartorial effect was a bow tie. survived the up and downs of front-line Fleet Street journalism for over half a century on

His vigil for the Daily Mail as, successively, Northern theatre critic, entertainments correspondent, theatre correspondent, assistant theatre and film critic, acting dramatic critic, chief dramatic critic, chief film critic and old film tipster

for television viewers - began before the Second World War. Trained, from 17, as a reporter on a South London group of local papers, Wilson landed himself a job in 1935 in the Northern office of the Daily Mail in Manchester, through the influence of a benevolent and journalistically distin-



guished elder brother, the drama critic A.E. Wilson.

On his first day's employment he was sent to the first night of a try-out of Noël Coward's new triple bill. The eager young Wilson scurried back to the office at the fall of the curtain in the tradition of the London dramatic critics and promptly knocked out on his typewriter a notice of To-night at 7.30.

Within the hour he breathlessly placed his copy in the night news editor's in-tray. A few minutes later, a voice growled; What the hell's all this?"

Well, you sent me to cover the Noël Coward opening, sir. There's my review.

"Yes, to cover the first night. not the play. We leave that to London.

But the first night was the

No, no. We wanted a news

story. Interviews. A back-stage angle. Something personal from Coward or Gertie Lawrence . . . Oh well, it's too late now, sighed the night news editor. Wilson was crestfallen. He

had muffed his first job. Half an hour later the night editor came in: "What are your

'C.F.W.", answered Wilson. He presumed they would he The next day his notice came out as he wrote it. signed C.F.W.

For the next 55 years, except for war service in the RAF. Wilson trod the path which he had dreamed of following ever since his brother had inspired his ambition to join the same profession. Together the brothers made a bit of post-war Fleet Street history by working side by side as drama critics for London dailies from 1948 to 1954, the one for the Daily Mail, the other for the evening paper the Star.

Long before today's new tech-nology, Wilson would park his car in a street near the theatre. scurry back to it at curtain-fall. scribble his notice at the wheel and then search for a public telephone from which to dictate his review to copy-typists within the hour. Among the more challenging first nights, in an era before previews when overnight reviewers had little time for reflection, were Look Back in Anger (1956) by John Osborne and The Birthday Farty (10: oy

Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Saile, ex-

plorer, murdered by his own men in

Texas 1687: Mary Arming, finder of

Harold Pinter.

Of the then unknown John Osborne's play Wilson wrote: They have not discovered a masterpiece, but they have discovered a dramatist of outstanding promise. What a britiant play this young man will write when he has got this one out of his system and let a little synshine into his soul.

Of Pinter's famous failure, The Birthday Party, Wilson wrote. One snag about being an understudy is that with all those bours to kill in the dressing room you are liable to write plays like The Birthday Party. No doubt lectual influence that he wrote this baffling mixture.

Wilson never claimed to be an intellectual; and after a few seasons of increasingly obscure new plays in the vogue which came to be called the New Wave, he was not altogether distressed to find himself, from 1960, making way for a provocative young newcomer named Robert Muller, whom the Mail engaged to oppose the brilliant new critic for the Daily Express.

Bernard Levin. Wilson turned to showbusiness gossip and theatre news for two years, which involved much travel and more congenial working conditions; and then he succeeded the Dail Mail's film critic Fred Majdalany for his last 12 years on the staff.

Adam Benedick Cecil Frank Petch Wilson, drama and film critic: born Margate, Kent 10 September 1909; married Margaret Kelly (deceased), 1991 Grace Mages; died Seaford, East Sussex 17 March 1997.

Leslie Lowe

of individual, self-revealing and abstract expressionism and

The music publisher Leslie Lowe spent his entire working life in and around music, beginning with the BBC when he

was only 14 years old.

Born in Bangor, North Wales,
he joined the BBC there, where the entertainment departments happened to have been evacuated during the early part of the Second World War. When National Service called he was Welsh Guards. After the war he returned to the BBC, this time working in the London Gramophone Library, servicing output in the Light Programme and the Home Service.

In 1954 he left to join the Lorna Music Company as its professional manager – and so began his life's career in music publishing. Although never actually an "A&R man" (as artists' managers are known in the recording industry), he was the shadowy figure behind dozens of pop singers of the Sixties and Seventies, including Helen Shapiro, Maureen Evans, and Clinton Ford - with a ceaseless search for suitable material for their recording careers. He moved on through 20th Century Fox Music and Burlington Music (the publishing arm of the Decca Record Company) to manager-ial positions at CBS Songs, Unit-ed Artists, and SBK Publishing, finally coming to roost at EMI

Music before retirement. But the "retirement" was from music publishing only, for that was

just part of his work. Throughout his publishing life he had worked on a book, The Directory of Popular Music, and, in 1975, this epic work appeared in print, to the gratitude and delight of media producers, presenters and DJs. It contains a wealth of information about the world's greatest songs, who wrote, published and recorded them - including record numbers, film credits, stage nominations, theme songs and signature tunes. By 1986 it had run to a second edition, and then a third in 1992. He was still working on an updated and much-expanded fourth edition at the time of his death - leaving the work filed in his computer. The

it in 1982 for services to the music publishing industry. Staunch and avuncular, Lowe was easily recognised by his lofty figure, thin as a beampole and bald with it. In 1975, in order to introduce his new book to radio producers, he held a luncheon for a few friends, intended to be a small-scale gathering. It became a regular monthly event, a dozen or so regularly turning up, and still continues.

British Academy of Songwriters,

Composers and Authors award

ed Lowe its Gold Badge of Mer-

Brian Willey Leslie Lowe, music publisher. born Bangor, Caernarvonshire 4 April 1926; married 1943 Babette (Bobbi) Bowbrick; died Hastings,

East Sussex 3 March 1997.

Asylum-seeker's damages claim was barred

W v Home Office; Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Thorpe, Lord Justice Waller) 19 February 1997

The Home Office did not owe a duty of care to an asylumseeker, whose detention had been unnecessarily protracted by the negligence of the immigration officers responsible for interviewing him, so as to en-

fice for damages for negligence. The Court of Appeal dis-missed an appeal by the plaintiff, an asylum-seeker from Liberia referred to as "W" to protect his identity, against a preliminary ruling of Sir Michael Davies, sitting as a High Court judge on 6 June 1996, in favour of the Home

Office. W claimed that, as a result of the negligence of immigration officers, he had wrongfully been detained pending resolution of his asylum claim. It was alleged that interviews of W had been conducted negligently and that the (unsatisfactory) answers to someone else's interview had negligently been placed in W's file,

tended beyond the date when

it should have ended. The

LAW REPORT 19 March 1997

rors had been made but denied liability in negligence.

negligence, the additional period of detention constituted loss or damage in respect of which damages could be awarded. Nicholas Blake QC and Tim Owen (Winstanley Burgess) for W; John Howell QC and Robin Tam (Treasury Solicitor) for the Home Office.

Lord Woolf MR, giving a judg-ment of the court, said it was important to stress that whatever was done by or on behalf of the defendant was done pursuant to a statutory regulatory scheme for the control of immigration into the UK of those who had no right to enter or remain. That scheme was contained in the Immigration Act 1971.

It was accepted that, under this scheme, individuals requiting leave to enter enjoyed no right or presumption of entitlement to be at large before leave was granted. A wide dis-Home Office accepted that er- cretion was given to immigra-

tion officers not only whether to admit detain or release but also in respect of the investigations they were entitled to make. The relevant statutory provisions were concerned with the giving of authority to detain; actual detention was in the hands of other persons.

It was not contested that the plaintiff was lawfully detained at all times. Nor was it con-tended that an invalid decision authorising detention made the detention unlawful.

The powers given to immigration officers were quintessentially those which were enforced by judicial review. No cause of action existed giving a right to damages for breach of a statutory duty and no such breach was alleged. The plaintiff sought to rely on the tort of negligence, in the

form of "negligent detention".
The principles to be applied in determining whether a duty of care arose were well established. For a duty of care to arise, there must, inter alia, be a relationship of sufficient "proximity" between the party owing the duty and the party to whom it was owed. The

mere existence of a relationship brought about by one party exercising a statutory power was à-vis another was not itself

London 7 March 1997.

sufficient to found proximity. The process whereby a decision-making body gathered information and came to its decision could not be the subject of an action in negligence. It sufficed to rely on the absence

of the required proximity. In gathering information and taking it into account the defendant's officers were acting pursuant to their statutory powers and within that area of their discretion where only deliberate abuse would provide a private remedy. For them to owe a duty of care to immigrants would be inconsistent with the proper performance of their responsibilities as immigration officers.

In the circumstances, it was not fair or reasonable to impose liability for negligence in the case of an immigration officer performing his public duty.

The first preliminary issue would therefore be answered in favour of the Home Office. The second point therefore need not be decided, but their Lordships would have decided it in the plaintiff's favour.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

ncements for Gazette BIRTHS. MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding anniversaries, In riam) should be sent in writin Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Edition. The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf. London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line VAT extra. O'THER Gazette 2a-houncements (notices, functions, Forthweise marcheses, Marchares, must be coming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Appointments

Miss Glynne Evans, to be Ambas sador to the Republic of Chile. Mr David Fall, to be Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Mr David Dain, to be British High Commissioner to the Islamic Renublic of Pakistan.

Mr Roy Osborne, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Nicaragua. Mr William Marsden, to be Am bassador to the Argentine Republic Mr Christopher Hulse, to be Am bassador to the Swiss Confederation

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS BOTAL ENGAGENTEATS
The Queen was the Exc. (your varial broaded from durity William of the Consumphilibrated own the four with the Consumphilibrated own the four for the Consumphilibrated own the Consum of the Con Chair attends a recognition to the Cash to a Budanthern Chair. The Budden of Glourester Forms, web the 'ver-vident Limbourset Glourester Forms, web the 'ver-vident Limboursetter, Lendin band, Survey, and a rito-tron, vol. to John victored, Lordbricked. The Duke of Americans, the Monolina, American Lorginius of the State of the Monolina, American Lorginius of the order, National Dukrass Gallery, London, MCC.

Changing of the Guard The 11-web-41 facility Mountain Representations:

Miss Ursula Andress, actress, 61; Sir Nigel Broomfield, ambassador to ny, 60; Miss Glenn Close, actress. 5t. Lady Georgina Coleridge. ournalist, 31: Mr Peter Cotes, thestrical director and producer, 85; Prolessor Ronald Girdwood, tormer President. Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. 80; The Right Rev Ronald Gordon, former Bishop of Lambeth, 70; Mr Bryan Hildrew former managing director, Lloyd's Register of Shipping, 77; Vice-Admiral Sir Norman King, former chairman. Buckinghamshire Health Authority, 54; Sir David Lumsden former Principal, Royal Academy of Music, 69: Mr Paul Marland MP, 57: Sir Peter Masefield, President. Brooklands Museum Trust, 83; Mr Philip Mason, povelist, 91: Lord Plant of Highfield, Master, St Catherine's College, Oxford, 52: Lt-Gen Sir Alan Reay, Chief Honorary Steward. Westminster Abbey, 72: Mr Philip Roth, novelist, 64: Sir Leonard Scopes, former diplomat, 85; Mr Bruce Willis, actor, 42: Miss Mary Wimbush, actress, 73.

Anniversaries

Births: Georges de la Tour, painter. 1593: Tobias George Smollett, physician and author, 1721; Charles Waton Wentworth, second Marquis of Rockingham, statesman, 1730; Dr David Livingstone, explorer and missionary, 1813; Sir Richard Franeis Burton, scholar and explorer, 1821; William Allingham, poet, 1824; Sergei Pavlovich Diaghiley, founder of the ballet company, 1872: Max Reger, teacher and composer, 1873; Sir John Hubert Marshall, archaeologist, 1876. Deaths: Thomas Kil-

ligrew. playwright. 1683; René

an Ichthyosaurus fossil, 1847; William Henry Playfair, architect, 1857; George Richmon I. painter, 1896; Antoine-Thomsor d'Abbadie, exolorer and scientist, 1897; Arthur James Balfour, first Earl Balfour. statesman, 1930: Edgar Rice Burroughs, novelist and creator of "Tarzan", 1950. On this day: The Rev John White formed the New England Company in Massachuseits Bay. 1628; the LIS Senate refused to ratify the Versaill's Treaty and the league of Nations Covenant, 1920; the opera Faint by Gouned was performed in Paris for the first time, 1859: Sydney Harbour bridge was officially opened, 1932; following an internal dispute. British parachute troops took over the Curibbean island of Anguilla, 1969: Willy Brandt and Willi Štoph, heads of West and East Germany, met for the first time at Erfurt. 1970; during a severe gale, the 1,260-foot television mast at Emley Moor, Yorkshire, crashed to the ground, 1970, Today is the Feast Day of St Alemend, prince of

St Lundwald

Lectures National Gallery: Christopher Baker. "The Italian Baroque (iii): Salvator the savage Rosa". Ipm: James Fenton, "Leonardo's Nephes", British Museum: Paul Craddock.

Northumbria, St John of Panaca, St

Joseph (husband of the Virgin) and

Exposing lakes and Forgeres". Tate Gallery: Jonathan Blackwood, On the Cost of Moderaty: fin-deviecie British art 1. IproVictoria and Albert Museum: Imogen Stewart. "Inspiration from Ancient Greece in 20th-century Dress".

Loughborough University: Dr Peter Warwick, "100 Years of Radioactiv

Dinners

RAF Strike Command Gp Capt G.S. Harker presided at a Dining In Night held yesterday evening in the Officers' Mess, Headquarters Strike Command. RAF High Wycombe, to mark the retirement of Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff from the Royal Air Force.

Institute of the Motor Industry Prince Michael of Kent, President of the Institute of the Motor Industry. presided over the Institute's Annud Dinner held yesterday evening at the Savow Hotel, London W1. Mr Steven Norris MP was the guest

Queen Mary and Westfield College

Sir Christopher France, Chairman of Council. Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, presided at an Honorary Degrees and Fellowship Ceremony held yesterday at the Collene. London E1, Mr Peter Brooke MP. Mr Martin R. Harris, Dame Anne Mueller and Professor Sir John Vane were admitted as Honorary Fellows of the college, Professor Graham Zellick, Principal, conferred Honorary Degrees of London University on Sir Gordon Higginson, Lord Steyn, and My Janet Suzman. Ms Suzman delivered the Drapers' Lecture,

The issues raised were (1) whether the Home Office owed W a duty of care; and (2) whether, if his detention was increased by the Home Office's

able him to sue the Home Of-

causing his detention to be ex-

المكذا من الأصل

Danger: Israeli colonialism at work

ppropriately, it rained Eretz of Netanyahu's coalition henchmen talk openly about assassinating the Palestinfoot of Jabal Abu Ghneim -Har Homa to its military landlords with armour, helicopters and an honour guard for the buildozers. Some honour: this building work is an act of colonialism by the Israeli government, timed to pay off the political debts of the prime minister, Benjamin Netan-yahu. These flats do not need to be built. They do not need to be built on a Palestinian hillside. And they do not need to be built now.

If there is no violent outbreak this week, that will be a blessing, for the prospect for Middle East peace (defined minimally as the absence of bloodshed) is bleaker than for some time. It is indeed time for the friends of Israel to clarify the extent and the nature of our friendship. We say: for the existence of the Israeli state within secure boundaries and with a right to defend itself internally and externally against terrorism - yes. But for a policy of tinpot imperialism, contemptuous of legal process and blinkered in its refusal to see that the Palestinian national entity exists and will have tobe recognised - no.

The more earth is moved and concrete the Netanyahu government's longerrun intentions. Evidently, he has no use for Yasser Arafat and the prospect of a Palestinian state that he embodies. Some ian leader. But what sort of calculation can lie behind that threat?

Construction work at Har Homa is only going ahead because Arafat is weak. He has no leverage over the Israeli government, but few other buttons to push. He is capable of inciting insurrection, but maybem on the streets could be dangerous to his position and the rule of the Palestinian Authority.

The Israeli government, at one and the same time, wants to hold Arafat responsible while denying him the supports that would make his responsibility operational. Does Netanyahu have some alternative Palestinian leader un his sleeve? Does he really think that anarchy - which would surely follow Arafat's disappearance - is going to make colonial government any easier?
Or does he, perhaps, have some

unannounced model in which the

Palestinians simply disappear? The saga of Jerusalem's municipal boundaries - to be chopped, changed and gerrymandered at whim - has lately shown how unwelcome the Netanyahu coalition finds the idea of assimilation. Too often it seems as if he and his even less attractive coalition partners dream laid, the greater the puzzle grows over of the West Bank, even those densely populated Arab suburbs of Old Jerusalem, as terra nullius, their inhabitants a tribe of ghosts to be wished away, decimated ... exterminated?



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That is a loaded word. But suppose, for the sake of argument, the Palestinian population were to turn overnight into peace-loving and harmless folk: Israel would still be overturning their legal claims to place and property.

Because he has nowhere else to go. Arafat may be persuaded to swallow Har Homa and continue talking, fait accompli. During his visit last week, King Hussein hinted at trade-offs: an airport for Gaza, release of prisoners, better connections between the autonomously administered West Bank areas and Gaza. Formally, these are, of course, points contained within the existing

Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement: from the Palestinian point of view, Israel is already committed, and cannot brandish them as a sweetener.

But, a brighter light in a dark landscape, King Hussein may have a continuing role to play as honest broker. In the aftermath of the revolting killing of Israeli girls in the Jordan Valley, his demeanour impressed all sides. So, too, did the Israeli response. Surely there was a lesson in those dealings after the deaths - that inter-state relationships can survive, perhaps be strengthened. by cool heads after the actions of the maddened and the maniac. Does not for Israel to aid the creation of a Palestinian state?

Recently Arafat was in Washington DC. His visit came within days of Netanyahu's arrival in Moscow. How the world has turned since the days when Middle East relationships could be mapped on a Cold War grid. But the United States still stands alone as friend of the Israeli government, as it did when the United Nations voted on Har Homa. There are reasons for that kind of vote, above and beyond domestic US political affiliations ... it would be impermissibly naive to exonerate UN General Assembly discussions from the taint of hypocrisy and all

manner of fellow travelling.

Non-action at the UN would matter a lot less if in other forums, the United States were pushing the Netanyahu government in the right direction. But since the exertions of President Clinton's special envoy Dennis Ross, which led to the Israeli decision to stick with the withdrawal from the centre of Hebron, inertia seems to have set in.

It is nearly 11 months since Netanvahu took office. Like many passionate philo-Semites, this newspaper shuddered a little when he arrived. We fear we were right. He is embroiled in allegations of personal corruption; his political position often seems to consist of little more than continuous and unnecessary concessions to a right

that, too, point towards the basic need wing which needs him more than vice versa. He hangs on. Now Israel's friends must hope that the parliamentary hold of the coalition weakens further, and in subsequent elections Israeli voters are given the chance to think again. A national coalition involving Labour would necessarily seek to revive the pathway opened by the Oslo Accords, based on withdrawal from the West Bank. This commitment leads towards a safer future. The construction work at Har Homa destroys it.

Ken Clarke's bad hair day

Our world has been shaken. Our deepest political convictions have been rocked. The election has barely started and yet this newspaper is gasping with shock, trembling on a shaken planet. Kenneth Clarke, whom we support as an honest man, a bad dresser and a good egg has been seen in the Commons with strange hair. A cursory plance suggests it has been blow-dried. Loath though we are even to discuss the matter in a family paper, there are those who think it has been, well, dyed.

Ken, say it isn't true. Voters need some unchanging truths to hold on to. And the Chancellor's wholly admirable slobbishness is one of them.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Schools plight shows tax cut hypocrisy

Sir: Now that the Prime Minister has finally confirmed 1 May as the date for the general election, we will hear many assurances from the Conservative and Labour parties about their commitment to education.

I have just received my statement of council tax due next year. This was accompanied by a leaflet setting out the spending plans of the council. This revealed that the council is planning a cut in

the education budget, Apparently, the reason is that the amount of grant the council receives from central government has been cut following the 1p reduction in the basic rate of Budget. Despite an increase in the rate of council tax, the county council has had to cut services across the board, including

education. Before Conservatives start muttering about loony left councils, they should register that I live in Buckinghamshire, the last county council still controlled by the Conservatives. Before Labour supporters start getting sning, they should realise that this state of affairs has been caused by an income tax cut that they fully support.

While I am now too cynical to expect the electorate to wake up and vote for the only party that has made a real commitment to Britain's future with its pledges on education, I can only hope that the Conservative and Labour parties stop sounding off about their supposed commitment to education and admit that they are only interested in trying to buy our votes. BILLCOLLETT Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire

Sir: I choose to pay high taxes. Why? I value the freedom my fouryear-old son has to play in complete safety. I value being able to walk down the streets without feeling guilty at seeing the

homeless and the poor.
I value being able to leave my front door unlocked, to walk without fear along the street at night, to know that when my son starts school he will be in a class of less than 30 with two, maybe three teachers. I find the money paid in taxes a very small price to pay for such a quality of life. The country I now choose to live

in? Sweden. Perhaps, with all the election promises of low tax bills, it is useful to remember what the choice could be. Quality of life, or a little more money to survive the difficulties with?

FELICITY LING Luled, Sweden

Sir: Now that the general election has finally been called, we will be subjected to the usual barrage of tedious party political electioneering over the next sixand-a-half weeks. I suggest an alternative to our current method of parliamentary election, which leads to short-term, cyclical fiveyear policies, and cynical manipulation of the economy in the run-up to a general election.

By staggering the election of every member of parliament in weekly intervals it is possible to be continuously electing the current government, with the term of office dictated only by party majority.

By having, say, three by-elections every week we would have the equivalent of a general election every four years (assuming 651



seats), but without the wasteful hype, advertising and economic manipulation that our current election system induces. The Commons majority of a given party

could be reviewed monthly.

This mechanism would provide ongoing feedback to the governing party of the nation's opinion of its performance, and allow government to look to the longterm benefit of the country. CLIVE SKINNER

Sir. By 6.15 this evening [Monday] had had enough of the election coverage. Is this a record? Dr MICHAEL HOWARTH London SW19

Train ban on breast-feeding

Sir: Recently, travelling on the Rugby-to-London InterCity train, since taken over by Virgin West Coast, I discreetly began breast-feeding my crying, hungry

I was immediately approached by a member of British Rail staff and told that either I stopped, or I would be put off the train at the next stop. When I protested that the baby was hungry, I was told that breast-feeding was upsetting the other passengers in the carriage.

I felt intimidated and humiliated

by the ticket collector. Most multiple stores in this country have recognised the needs of mothers and babies, and have in place policies which allow them to breast-feed in public and private Mrs H JOHNSON

Orpangion, Kent

Why doctors are so stressed

Sir: W Alexander (letter, 17 March) has identified one pertinent aspect of the incipient NHS medical manpower crisis. At the bottom of all this is the fact that the old-style NHS medical staffing structure is no longer sustainable.

Even in the 15 years since I qualified, technical advances and rightly raised patient expectations mean that even a well-trained house officer or senior house officer cannot possibly manage medical and surgical emergencies until the consultant makes his ward round.

Many other factors, in particular the consequent intensity of work, have driven all doctors to move towards sustainable patterns of working. It is becoming rarer for consultants in hard-pressed specialties to do whole series of days on call and GPs have been forced to resort to out-of-hours centres etc.

As Paddy Ashdown has pointed out in relation to education, if the people want quality services they will have to pay for them. Health Dr EVAN A BÁYTON Senior Registrar in Accident and Emergency Medicine Warrington Hospital NHS Trust

Sir: A paper in the British Medical Journal recently pointed out that it is desirable that emergency care is not delivered by doctors who are chronically short of sleep. I hope

this is not controversial.
It is desirable that trained specialists provide as high a proportion of medical care in hospital as can be arranged. Training doctors well takes less time than training them badly.
Once well trained, they can work as autonomous specialists.

One of the perverse incentives of the past was that it was cheaper to load duties on to junior doctors than to employ other people to do them. This is now vanishing, and medical training and patient care are improving as a result.

The massive expansion of the hospital management structure, dealing almost solely with the alleged internal market, is also funded out of the total NHS coffers. It is a better target for redistribution than the changes in medical staffing and training which are necessary to respond to changes in society and medicine. Dr ADRIAN MIDGLEY Chairman, Exeter Division British Medical Association

Cancel bypass

Sir: Steven Norris, until recently a junior minister in the Department of Transport, has admitted that the Newbury bypass was a mistake. Only a small part of the cost, originally estimated at £100m but certain to be far more than that, has so far been spent. No irreparable damage has yet been done. This scheme should be cancelled. STEPHEN PLOWDEN London NWI

edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

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Ministers back good buildings

Sir: I do think Jonathan Glancey, in his article "Parliamentary interest in building? Never!" (7 March) is unfair in ignoring the Government's efforts to improve standards of architecture.

examined in a report we

n Leeds, a Private Finance

department, has received

takes good architecture into

As Jonathan Glancey says.

architecture frames most of our

lives for much of the time. Neither

public nor private developers always get it right. But to ignore the

efforts we are making to encourage

good architecture does no service

to the cause of bettering architecture and design in Britain, which we are both anxious to

Department of National Heritage London SWI

Sir: Two resounding Bronx cheers

vote for snog 'n' run", 12 March).

to Peter Popham ("The teenies

The Toys recorded "A Lover's

Concerto", not "Symphony for Love". Far worse, how could he

trace the history of girl groups

promote.

Lord INGLEWOOD

Under-Secretary of State

Spice wrack

commissioned and are circulating. The Royal Armouries Museum

Initiative project supported by this

accolades. Later this year we shall

publish guidance to ensure that PFI

particularly in the public sector. His reference to the recent debate in the House of Commons includes not a single word of the Government's contribution. Jain Sproat, replying for the Government, affirmed our commitment to raising architectural standards. He recognised successes and failures. identified problems and made

suggestions for addressing them. firginia Bottomley and I have had a number of discussions with leading architects, as well as with our colleagues in government, to consider how we can improve the quality of our buildings. John Gummer's enthusiasm has been evident in his initiative "Quality in Town and Country".

The Department of National Heritage/Department of the Environment advice on promoting and organising architectural competitions has been warmly welcomed. Competitions have become more popular and are taking on new importance to meet the great requirement for new buildings being driven by the

National Lottery. A number of options for a National Centre for Architecture and what role it might play are

without even mentioning the Shangri-las? Mistresses of teen angst, they are without rival as the greatest girl group in pop history and would chew up and spit out Geri Hulliwell and Co before breakfast. Any two lines from "Give Him a Great Big Kiss" could blow the entire Spice canon out of the water. "When I say I'm in love, you best believe I'm in Love – L-U-V!" GUY PIERCE

London SE25

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be

Sir: Rulings from Brussels on the slaughter of food animals

Small abattoirs

less frightening

t"Abattoir animals deserve better". letter, 17 March (were too vigorously enforced in our country by the Ministry of Agriculture. Fisheries and Food, forcing small abattoirs out of business.

Animals are now sent on much longer journeys to very noisy. rapid-production, less caring, huge EU-approved abattoirs. No wonder the poor creatures are scared, and all supposedly in the name of

improved hygiene standards. Not only has this government caused a lot of extra, unnecessary stress for animals going to slaughter, it has also caused a lot of stress for owners of small abattoirs and their now redundant workers. BRENDA BUCK

Sir: Frances Hardwick may be interested to know that there is a mobile abattoir working on my farm at present. It is available to travel to the animals, rather than transporting them miles and miles in filth and stress to some huge

PAUL LYSLEY Casile Combe. Wiltshire

Liverpool faces up to harsh facts

Sir: On the day after the latest Liverpudlian received a knighthood, Evelyn Ross (letter, 13) March) castigates Paul Vallely for allowing Liverpudlians to "enjoy and promote their cosy self-image of brave loser and victim in his perceptive article "Hidden virtues of loser-friendly Liverpool" (11

Paul Vallely's article was about how the city has survived in the face of adversity. I witness this every day of my life in the school and university where I teach, and among audiences I perform to as a musician. It is, I assure you, a city which very much has had to face the "harsh realities of modern life". GERALD MURPHY Liverpool

Sir: Evelyn Ross (letter, 13 March) is entitled to her opinion, but to say of Liverpool. "Heaven help anyone who is neither Catholic nor working class" is insulting and wrong. We are Irish Catholic and working class. And proud of it. JAMES KENNEDY Liverpool

Dap that!

Sìr: As an expat Cardiffian I am enjoying your correspondence on Welsh dialects. I only differ from R Pugh (18 March) in that in our household "to dap down" was to place an item anywhere. pro tem.

The meaning of "dap" as a plimsoll reminds me of a childish joke, circa 1950, which we thought screamingly funny,

Question: What's the fastest thing in the world? Answer. Diarrhoea with daps on. Boom-boom.

LINDA RYMEN Moreton-in-Marsh, Glaucestershire

Sir: The word "dap" (letter, 18 March) was well known to schoolbovs in Bath, Somerset, during the Second World War. You got the dap on your rear end if you forgot to bring your gas mask to JOHN GORDON

Ripon, North Yorkshire

tish:
withe
here a

he citizens of Europe should be happy that a man of Bryan Cassidy's calibre is reptheir resenting ! democratic interests. At least, that's what Mr Cassidy thinks. Member of the European Par- liament for Dorset and East . Devon, he believes that, in return for all his hard work. Europe owes him a good living. 1 Mr Cassidy is currently insisting that the taxpayer should give him £315, the cost of one day's pheasant shooting, which he sacrificed" in order to travel to Belarus as an EU election monitor, "Of course I should be reimbursed," he splutters indig-nantly over a whisky, after a day stomping the corridors of the Strusbourg Palais. "Of course you should." says his colleague. Edward McMillan-Scott (North Yorkshire. Con)."You know what the Dutch are saying about you, Bryan ... That you've been shooting peasants. "I was pressed to Belarus at

the very last minute." continues Mr Cassidy. And bloody cold and miserable it was, too, You would have asked for your money back if you'd had to cancel a holiday due to work."

Cheeks pinkening, Mr Cassidy (ex-Army, ex-publishing-exec) doesn't pause for long to worry about what his constituents would think about his attitude. The MEP's "subsistence allowcance" of £180 a day is barely enough "for two" (his wife. Gillian, is his assistant) to enjoy a meal at La Maison du Cygne. he says, citing the most expenswe restaurant in Brussels.

"I don't see why we should have anything but the best. I don't care what the majority of my constituents can afford. I compare myself to people earning salaries of seven figures." he i explains. Anyway, the Belarus election was "fixed", says the . MEP who scraped into his seat with a 2,000 majority after a 38 per cent turn out, so he should know all about democracy.

Mr Cassidy only has to glance out of the window to see pillars of European democracy being erected all around him. Here, twinkling in the evening light. the parliament's brand-new - Strasbourg Palais is taking ; shape, at a cost of £330m. Meanwhile, in Brussels, another in nearer £650m. The total cost to credible parliament. the tax-payer is about £1bn.

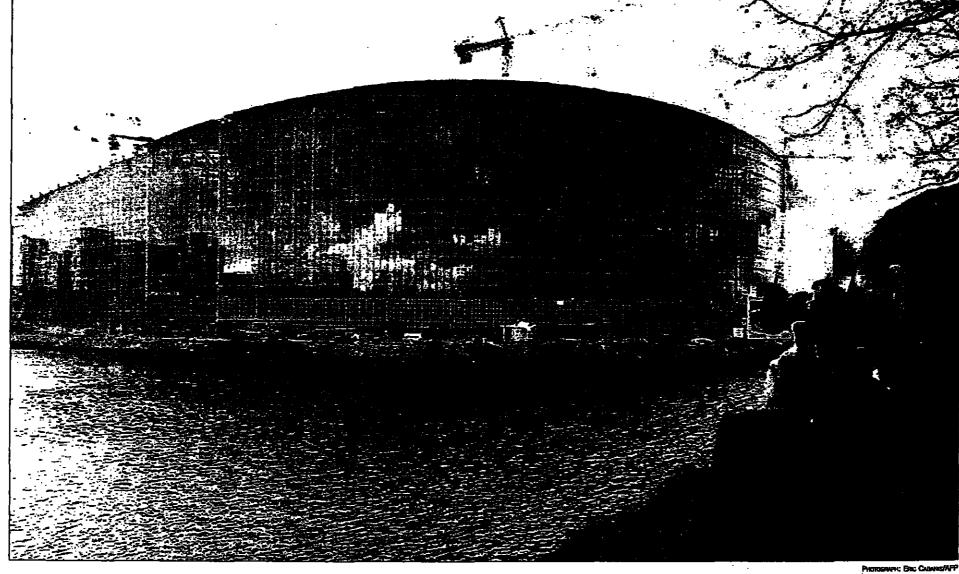
At the EU's Amsterdam summit in June, member states a will decide to pool more powers in several crucial areas. In i 1999 economic and monetary :. union is scheduled to start, the

sp

P:

Η

Name:(Mr/Mrs/Ms.)



Q: What could this building in Strasbourg be? A: Another pleasure palace for our MEPs

by Sarah Helm in Strasbourg

single largest act of European integration since the founding of the union. And early in the next millennium, enlargement to bring in Europe's eastern neighbours will begin. Given these events, Europe's leadership is under stronger pressure than ever to win the support of its citizens, to counter spreading Euro-scepticism, and to Liparliament building is also near- prove that the union is account- mined by treaty requirements, authority of national parliaing completion, at a cost of able to its citizens through a

> To watch the cranes lurching through the sky above Brussels and Strasbourg one might think that Europe was responding to these challenges by building representative government on a grand scale. The truth is, how-

ever, that new buildings only highlight the impotence of the institution. The shimmering masses on the Brussels and Strasbourg skylines just symbolise the waste caused as MEPs try to lay a claim to power by building facts on the ground on a breathtaking scale.

The credibility of the parliament has always been underwhich have obliged it to operate from three centres. Under a deal carved up by member states, the parliament's plenary meetings must be held in Strasbourg, a city on the Franco-German border which the French, in particular, insist has everlasting symbolic value. The

administration is in Luxembourg, while most ordinary parliamentary business is carried out in Brussels.

Many believe that dismembering the parliament is a deliberate ploy by member states to prevent the institution gaining real clout - clout that could lead to creating a truly federal body that would undermine the ments. Over the years member states have reluctantly allowed the parliament to amend some EU legislation. But MEPs' ability to influence important policy moves is virtually nil.

For its part, the parliament has long understood that if it wants to acquire real power and influence it must extract itself from Strasbourg and build a permanent base in Brussels, alongside the other EU institutions. To this end, the body assigned itself the funds to sign a 27-year lease on a parliament complex in Brussels, which is now nearing completion.

The building was designed as a conference centre and is in many ways unsuitable as a parliament. The Brussels regional authority is reeling at the traffic implications of the new building and is refusing to allow the parliament's demand of 2,300 car parking places, saying the limit is 900. The parliament

says it wants to be "closer to the citizens" but blight around the Brussels edifice shows that citizens are moving away en

masse. Nevertheless, MEPs remain committed to their Brussels home, despite the fact that every month they must up sticks and travel down to Strasbourg for their plenary. The and Strasbourg City Council parliament's 3,400 administra-tive staff join the monthly trav-money-spinning institution) elling circus and head to the Strasbourg session too. Because

Money for MEPs Solaries MEPs are paid the same salaries as Sate paid the same reducal MPs (per housen) haly grantes are in \$13,322 one of the period \$12,649 France 2012 156,354

Dearmark (1954) ireland research Sweden Ses Finland 325 Greece (22) Extras

General expenditure \$26,682 p.a World travel
Secretarial allowance E2,152 p.a E76,949 p.a Further travel and sub lable for attending

the existing Strasbourg building is expected to be too small for meetings after enlargement, the second brand-new palace here

... As MEPs gathered for last

week's Strasbourg session, fog was causing chaos at airports sent out fleets of chauffeur driven cars to meet MEPs diverted to fog-free airports. "Let's see, I left home at 9am and flew from Stansted to Amsterdam and then on to Stuttgart where I had to get a car," says Robert Sturdy, member for Cambridgeshire. "The car was

late and I finally got here at

By midday on Tuesday, the circus transfer was almost complete. Trunks carrying papers and equipment down from Brussels were unpacked and dumped outside members' offices in Strasbourg, as corridors took on the appearance of a boarding school at the beginning of term. Outside a Belgian national front MEP stood before a TV camera arguing for repatriation of all immigrants. while inside the chamber, banks of interpreters were interpreting a contribution from Ken

effect that Dolly was a "very

appy sheep".

Since the parliament baulked at: the beef débâcie, journalists have lost interest. "Dolly, dolly. Who wants the Dolly vote?" cried a press officer across the

virtually real press room. There are CD-Roms on the IGC and video clips on MEPs. More than 110 permanent staff are employed keeping journalists informed of every development. Meanwhile, technicians are transmitting to Europe by satellite. Is anyone watching?

Journalists enjoyed the "sign on and sod off" story, but word is that the parliament's inquiry into expenses will be a whitewash. With salary and allowances, a British member can expect to take home about £70,000 net - about £100,000 net if he or she puts a family member on the payroll, as Mr Cassidy does.

MEPs (whose register of interests is voluntary) earn unspecified additional sums as an advisers to outside bodies. Mr Cassidy, who painstakingly declares his numerous interests, represents Union Carbide (which gave us Bhopai) and also trains lobbyists on how to lobby

MEPs like himself. "I see training lobbyists as part of my job," he asserts proudly.

The rumpus on Wednesday did capture some media attention. Leaders of the 3,100 Belgian car workers, sacked by Renault, had come to hear how MEPs planned to back their case and reaffirm the "European social model".

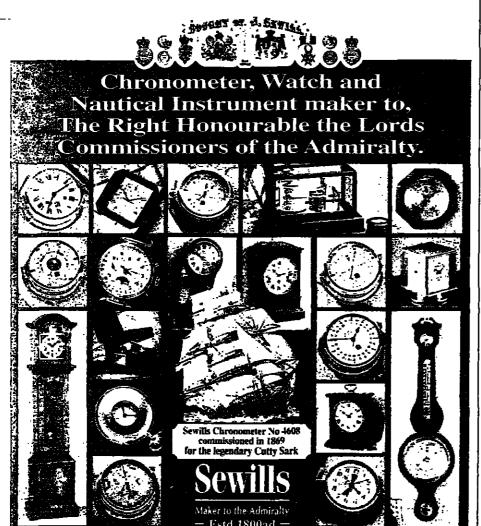
"Next thing is, we'll have blokes in jackboots with tommyguns up there in the galler said Roy Perry, the Tory MEP. As the workers passed through the foyer a choir of Greek clerics struck up a Gregorian chant.

munist," added Mr Perry, as if to insult Antoni Gutierrez Diaz, a Spanish post-Communist, who bears the scars of Franco's torturers on his neck. "We cannot open up the parliament like this - the next thing is we'll have them abseiling down into the chamber or marauding into the parliament building - it'll be just like Albania. It'll be mob rule," said the British MEPs, as TV monitors all over the building showed gangs of Renault workers marauding around the parliament building, declaring:

"Don't be too hard on us," says Alan Donnelly, member for Tyne and Wear. "It is demoralising for those trying to do iculous this place is in the scrutinise ÉU legislation an ments have found their way on car crash safety and technical stands for lift harmonisation to aid the handicapped. "I would put my main achievement as ... says Robert Sturdy. Otto Von Habsburg, an MEP from Bavaria, and son of the last Habsburg emperor, points out that the parliament is as yet young" - the empire of his forefathers evolved over 600

Even the carryings-on of men such as Bryan Cassidy could, taking real punitive action over ... perhaps, be viewed as somewhat trivial. During the Renault protest Mr Cassidy was seen by . Labour MEPs gesturing to the public gallery in an obscene. threatening and provocative manner in the international language of get stuffed". But one might find such behaviour in Westminster, too.

It is the member states. rather than the parliament, that should be blamed for allowing the erection of two such massive white elephants. Britain complains of Euro "waste" more forcefully than any country, but it has never called for a permanent parliamentary home. If Europe's leaders were to give the European Parliament real power, they and the citizens might find that MEPs behaved with real discipline. Yet there is no sign that member states will throw anything other than scraps of new powers to the parliament at the summit in Amsterdam. Governments which stand paralysed before the "democratic delicit" should recall that rot can eventually bring whole palaces tumbling



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Away from the election, a breath of fresh air

Collins (Strathclyde East) to the

ur pledge: This column is guaranteed absolutely for a absolutely free from any mention of the general election. Except just then, of course. Thank you.

Today we bring you a story for our times, a tale of personal values, of care for hygiene and yet of ultimately hopeless insecurity. It is postmodernist vet timeless. antique vet timely ...

A reader writes: Oh, for heaven's sake - get on with it! Fair enough. Here we go then with a short story entitled Bad Breath Blues"

It was rather odd that Bill Blunkett should worry about having bad breath, as he had taken so many other precautions about his personal hygiene. He had eliminated dandruff from his head and shoulders, he had made sure that nasal hair was trimmed with military precision, and he had even mastered the golden rule of after-shave

lotion. (The golden rule of aftershave lotion, if you are interested, is that putting too much on is worse than putting none on, and that if all those men who go round

smelling like an explosion in a perfume factory realised how they spread asphyxiation, the after-shave lotion industry would plummet.)

But still Bill Blunkett worried that he might have bad breath. This was because he had

once read that you can never smell your own breath, in the same way that you can never hear your own snoring or see yourself from behind. You are so used to your own smell that it cannot impinge on you, and therefore everyone who has bad breath thinks he has acceptable

The same is true of people who have acceptable breath. So you never know if you have bad breath or not.

breath.

Bill Blunkett sometimes tried breathing into his own cupped hand and then sniffing quickly to see if he could catch the odour of his own respiration. It was uscless. All he could smell was the warm, slightly sweaty smell of his own hand. This was all done in strict privacy, of course, as

indeed was the experiment

when he breathed into a



Miles Kington

paper bag and sealed it up, then later had a sniff. It smelt of paper bag.

Which is what you would expect if you had bad breath to which you were already accustomed. It drove Bill Blunkett:

barmy. There was nobody he could ask.

He had a wife and two children, of course, and several score colleagues, but they were precisely the people who would have to put up with his bad breath (if he had it) and who could not

be trusted to give an honest or unmalicious answer. He could see the dialogue in advance.

Him: "Darling do I ever have bad breath?" Her: "No, not really. Except when you have been drinking, or eating, or smoking, or chewing gum." Or perhaps more like

Him: "Darling do I ever have bad breath?" Her: "Never mind about that - have you booked the car in for its service yet?"

can never consult intimate friends and relations about such things as sexual problems, table manners, the technique of tying a bow-tie. simple spellings, and how to drive better, and bad breath is one of these. Far better to consult a complete stranger.

And that is exactly what

There are some things you.

Bill Blunkett did. With a courage he hardly knew he possessed, he one day leant forward on the train to a tall strange man who was about to get out at the next stop (Leeds) and said, "May I ask you a favour? Does my breath smell?" and breathed

"Not specially," said the man, and got out. The quality of Bill Blunkett's life soared after that. He had it on

unimpeachable, unbiased authority that his breath was OK! A completely impartial arbiter had told him that halitosis was not a danger! You should have seen his social poise increase and his courage at parties and dinners take him through previously uncharted

It even affected his work, in that his increased confidence gave him a more. dynamic attitude and he soon won promotion, and was relocated to a senior position in Yorkshire. The first day he

encountered his new boss, he thought he recognised him. So did his new boss. "My God," said his new.

boss, without thinking. "It's the man on the train with the horrible breath!" It was at this point that Bill Blunkett's life took a

decided downtum again. . Not a pretty story, I'm afraid, but it took your mind off the election for five minutes, didn'i it?

المكذا من الأصل

by the rules when there are none left

ony Blair invoked the T-word, trust, yesterday, seeking to place trust at the core of the election campaign. He is right, of course, because politicians rank alongside about increased at the side, ahem, journalists at the bottom of the trust league. That perception of politicians is corrosive to democracy, and anything that can counter it must be helpful.

But the issue is bigger than just hoping that politicians seeking election will do what they say. It is about public service in general as well as political for searcher that the ties, for remember that the government is a thin crust of a few score politicians atop a mountain of public servants. And it is not just about the narrow, if enormously important, issue of trust; it is also about the wider one of ethics, the E-word, the behavioural standard of governments
Of course for all the talk of

"sleaze" Britain is by no means alone in its worries. Concerns about possible falling ethical standards are surfacing throughout the developed world. They are evident in the US, throughout continental Europe, and certainly in Japan. Hardly a day goes by without some prominent person somewhere in the world being

forced to resign because of some ethical shortfall. If they themselves have not done anything wrong, they are forced to resign because of the failings of some of their staff. And if they don't resign, the opprobrium is even greater: the fact that so many Tory ministers have tried to cling on has heightened our perception that they are a sleazy bunch. Wait a couple of years after the election and the new lot will be busy resigning too. Why?

This is not a people problem. People are people are people. While there will always be wrong 'uns in every walk of life there is no evidence that they are more now than they used to be. It is a system problem, for we are all ask-

ing new and different things of government.

A group at the OECD in Paris has been studying the problem and has produced some guidelines on how to manage government ethics. Any new and inexperienced government would be well advised to read them:

The core of the OECD argument is that the business of government has changed radically. over the past few years. It used to be administration of a set of pre-established rules. servants were free from attack, for they had done what they had been told to do: the Sir Humphry school of management. But that system created obvious inefficiencies, and people became fed up with a public sector that was unresponsive to their needs. So "keep your nose clean" was replaced by "show some initiative". A series of private sector disciplines was incorporated requiring people in government ser-

The trouble is, if you ask people to show initiative they will make mistakes. Indeed making mistakes is part of the learning process that the private sector goes through in seeking



Hamish McRae

This is a system problem. We are all asking different things of

to develop and adapt service to public demands. If you don't sometimes fail, you are not trying anything new. I have always liked the story about a rising young executive in a US manufacturing company who was in charge of putting in a new \$8m computer system. It was a disaster and the whole cost had to be written off. He padded in to the chief executive

and offered to resign. "Absolutely not," said his boss. "We have just spent \$8m putting you through an extremely expensive management training course on com-puter installation and we certainly don't want you taking that expertise off to a competitor. You stay here and make sure that we never make that

sort of mistake again."
You see the point. The public service ethos is completely different. A minister whose department screws up has first to try to pretend that (so to speak) the beef burgers are perfectly all right; and then when they aren't, leave it to some other poor so-and-so to carry the can five years later.

As the OECD points out, it government is in the area of ethics that the tensions are most evident between the old rule-book approach to public administration and the new innovative, risk-taking one.
"If there is too much control," it points out.

"nothing will get done; but if there is too lit-tle control the wrong things will get done."

So there has to be a trade-off between a sys-

tem which adds administrative cost by "trying to catch every misdeed, minor misdemeanour or actual corruption, versus the political costs of allowing some mistakes to occur" So what do you do? The OECD public

management group has drawn up an "ethics infrastructure" to try to promote ethical public behaviour. Key elements are: Political commitment: politicians saying

they are important and setting an example. -Legal framework: laws that set standards and enforce them.

- Accountability: audits, performance eval-uation, codes of conduct: statements of values, roles, obligations.

- Education and training: supportive pub-lic service conditions: decent pay and security. == Ethics co-ordination: to make sure simi lar standards of conduct apply across the board. - Civic society: a culture which acts as a

All this may sound self-evident - no one is going to say that it is a bad thing to have accountability for people in public service - but the fact that it needs to be said itself speaks volumes. Voters clearly do not trust governments, or politicians like Tony Blair would not bang that to the top of their agendas. It is interesting that political commitment is number one on the OECD list. But saying that is the easy vices to respond to what customers wanted. bit. The hard bit comes when a government makes a mistake. Does it admit it and learn from it? Are we mature enough to accept and respect that honesty? Or will be just carry on jeering while they bluster?

It is hard to play The Scotsman's home rule hand-grenade

by Andrew Marr

عكدًا من الأصل

he Sun is not the only paper to have made news by changing course in the opening days of the election campaign. The Scotsman has just lobbed a small hand-grenade into the Labour establishment by arguing that for home rule to work, Scottish MPs must now lose the right to vote on English affairs

The Scotsman is to middleclass Labour in Scotland what The Sun has been to blue-collar southern Toryism. It has been more sophisticated, more veiled, but scarcely less dependable. Its gloriously turreted and gold-leafed Edinburgh offices have been the bastion, the unstormable citadel, of leftish Scottish home rule. (I know. I carried a spear there once.) So this questioning of the orthodozy from deep inside the belly of the temple is, at the very least, an occasion for pursed lips and muttered tsks. The Scotsman's rudery

comes at an interesting moment. It says it requires an answer, in the name of honesty and fair play, to the "West Lothian Question" - in other words, once power has been devolved to a Scottish or Welsh assembly, why should the Enghish tolerate Celtic involvement in their domestic affairs?

The Question, almost Arthurian in its significance, was named after the West Lothian MP, Tam Dalyell, who asked it persistently in the House of Commons in the late Seventies. But it is the oldest Unionist question of all, which came first from people like the Tory leader Arthur Balfour, who put it thus in 1914: "Are you going to leave the whole of these 72 Scottish MPs here to manage English education ... it is an irresponsible scheme!'

The Question 's value, from Balfour to Dalyell to John Major, has been that it seemed to put a Unionist block on selfgovernment inside the UK for the Scots or Welsh, (The Irish have always been treated differently, largely because of their

explosives.)
Why? Because if the Celts do retire from English business, then the whole jalopy crashes.
Westminster would then be likely, at some stage, to find itself trying to support two different administrations at the same time. There would be the Scottish-backed, probably Labour, government with a majority for European affairs, defence, fiscal policy and so on. Then there would be the Eng-



The paper's stance is a painful kick up the Scottish leftish establishment's fundamental principle from a once dependable ally

lish, probably Tory, administration which controls health, education and much else south of the border.

This administrative schizophrenia would not last long. You cannot have two cabinets, dominate. Though the Liberal Democrats have always advocated a federal Britain, with an English Assembly to match Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast. that seems a Utopian answer. So, if the Question was asked, and then logically answered, it has always been assumed that the UK would creak, groan and then split apart.

Which is, of course, unthinkable. Unionists have therefore used the innocent-seeming mittees. For those who are keen

Ouestion as a subtle threat. Decoded, it reads: "You know Scottish or Welsh devolution would annoy the English, who are numerous, rich and powerful. So you must back off."

End of home rule/Jocks back There are other answers. It is not clear that the English would in fact be outraged by Scottish self-government, so long as the number of Scottish MPs at Westminster was cut, to reduce their influence.

David Steel argues, in addition, that an English grand committee should be established at Westminster to deal with English-only matters, just like the similar Scottish and Welsh comon compromise, and retaining the Union, there are compromises readily available. By contrast, demanding a

logical answer to the Question will tend to drive the debate to extremes. Although the Ques-Union, it could equally well be used as a jemmy to force it apart. The Scoisman's recent editorial begins, for instance, with a passionate plea for home rule: "We contend that the cause is just, the demand manifest, and the case beyond challenge. Democracy withers when a nation with its own legal system is denied the right to make

its own laws."
If it thinks that, and understands the dangers of the Ques-

tion, then the paper is well down the path to Scottish independence. Is that what it really wants? Or is this, as appalled Labour devolutionists think, a hurdle which is meant to be too high for Tony Blair to jump and therefore a way of justifying an anti-devolution conclusion? Everyone knows how dependent even New Labour may be on Scottish votes.

Is The Scotsman, therefore, covertly demanding a choice between the Tories and the SNP? That suspicion is strengthened by the fact that The Scotsman is now owned by the Barclay twins, strong supporters of Margaret Thatcher; and has, in Andrew Neil, an editor-in-chief who is both a Unionist and a paid-up member of the radical right.

By this reckoning, the change of direction may not be quite the agonising kidney-punch which The Sun inflicted on the Prime Minister, but it is a very painful kick up the Scottish leftish establishment's fundamental principle from a once dependable ally. So - in short - ouch!

How should reformers respond? They certainly shouldn't shy from the Question hecause of party timidity or because they suspect the motives of the people who ask it. Anyway, there are bolder and more principled answers to give.
If Labour embraced voting reform, then Scotland would be a little more Tory and England would be rather more Labour and Lib Dem. The differences between the historic nations of Britain, which are greatly exaggerated by the first-past-thepost system, would be smoothed over. We would become a Union of political minds, not simply of taxpayers. The UK would become more ideologically similar, and therefore stronger, not weaker. And. of course, it would matter far less to Labour whether it had Scottish MPs to prop it up at Westminster or not.

So I think The Scotsman has done the whole country a service: its fundamental case is paragraphs of reform may not be enough. Scottish home rule without voting reform would leave the Union vulnerable to a surging back of the radical right in England. So if Blair is driven to deliver an Edinburgh parliament, as he has promised to, he cannot flinch back. He will have to go further. Good: like a scavenged dyke, stone by stone, our whole old settlement is slowly slipping over.

Hey buddy, I *like* rude New Yorkers

David Usborne laments the city's attempts to be more polite

That are they doing to New York? Shootings and muggings are down and I have no argument with that. The transformation of Times Square from the sleazy but trillaring peep-show bizarre to a sanitised Disneyville is almost complete. Now, wait for it, there is a campaign going on to make the natives more polite. New York without its famously profane

mouth would be like a lion without its mane. Of course, the city is not all that it is cracked up to be in the rudeness department. Call me a fibber or blind, but spontaneous displays of kindness and camaraderie among New Yorkers – even to foreigners – is quite the norm. But there is a special blummess about discourse in this city. And it is part of New York's identity.

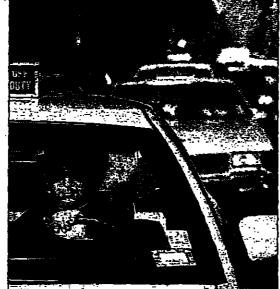
Ask somebody for the time and you may

be rewarded, as I recently was, with a less than helpful, "Get a watch, buddy". And think twice before attempting to scold a New Yorker (er, excuse me ... sorry ... would you mind very much) for queuebarging, blocking your view, putting gum under the seat next to yours or whatever it may be. "Huh?" they will fire back. What's it to you, anyway?"

You hear worse, of course, like when the visiting team scores a home run in a packed Yankee Stadium (F** the Braves still echoes in my head) or when one New York driver blocks the path of another trying to turn left against the traffic as I witnessed this week on Park Avenue. A flawlessly coiffed woman leaned out from her polished Lexus limousine and screamed:
"Get out of the way, you f***ing moton!"

Tourists anxious for a flavour of ruffian New York traditionally have needed to do nothing more than travel around it. A short trip in the hands of a New York cabby might do it. Trying to fathom the bus routes and asking help from a driver is usually good. For a sense of the sheer mania of Manhattan nothing beats the subway at rush hour - especially the No 6 line.

The city's wise fathers, however, have decided that this should not be your experience and have instituted variously dotty programmes designed to make the people you meet "nicer" - as in have-a-nice-day you meet inter - as in have-stated asynchronic and state and state



act by a rising tide of complaints about abusive and recalcitrant chauffeurs, like the one who dumped a woman rider midway across the Queensboro Bridge after she insisted on

her right to be taken across the East River.

To qualify for a licence now the cabbies must be familiar with a city-penned catalogue of the cabbies of the c must be familiar with a city-penned catalogue of 50 helpful and courteous phrases. These tips in verbal eriquente include: "I'm sorry you don't understand. I will try to speak more clearly"; "Please let me take your bags, sir (madam)"; "Thank you for hailing me, sir (madam)"; and "Madam (sir), is there any particular route you would like today?" The drivers, of course, realise that rectime the phrases would realise that reciting the phrases would prompt most riders to consider them psychotic and run for safety.

Now it is the bus drivers who are in finshing school. There are horror stories here too. A favourite tells of a driver on the uprown second avenue route who recently took umbrage after a woman rider allegedly insulted him. He simply parked the bus at 82nd street and stalked off, leaving the passeat. Finally, the next bus came along and rescued the

disgrantled passengers.

Every driver is now being ordered to attend classes on keeping peace while at the wheel. At a cost of millions of dollars, the transport authority will dispense such nuggets as: "do not swear or call names"; "avoid sarcasm"; and "never shout at or strike a customer". Among some tricky quiz questions we have: "Elderly customers appreciate it when you drive like you are in a hurry, true or false?" To get all New York's drivers

two to three years. But wait, what about the users? Disputes are rarely one-sided, but no one would suggest trying to brainwash every New Yorker in the art of nice. Would they? Yup,

through the course will take

they would. This week, I found myself part of an experiment in mind-set modification on the infamous No 6 subway line at Grand Central Station. In a programme dubbed "Step Aside, Speed Your Ride", the transport authority is trying to stop New York commuters from boarding every train as if it were the last lifeboat off the Titanic. As each train draws in, conductors invite you to keep outside orange boxes painted on the platform where the train doors will open. The idea is simple: let everyone out and you - and the train - will get going more

"There are a few people who get kind of angry," one conductor admits. "But most people understand that we are just trying to improve service." In my few minutes observ-ing this exercise, I am shocked to see that almost no one is daring to disobey. Only one man, looking like he is dressed for a day on Wall Street, flatly refuses to leave the box

even after gentle physical encouragement. The old New York -wondrous city of the gruff and ungracious, of the blunt and belligerent - may be disappearing. Hurry and visit before it is too late.

The lusty ways of St Hilda

room to find a Chippendale. And not the type of furniture. Our last all female college at Oxford University is once again under attack. Next month, the governing body will probably vote to admit male fellows. Whenever this has happened in other female colleges, male students have inevitably followed. St Hilda's undergraduates are outraged. As well they should be.

Before I went to St Hilda's the thought of spending three years in an all-female college did not appeal. But now when I hear the cries of "anachronism", "get into the real world". I say Rubbish. It's pure jealousy. Forget the It girls. Every-body wants to be a St Hilda's girl. Far from the old image of girls in pearls". when I was there we were the bad girls, the belies of St Trinians, the Spice Girls of the university. In fact we typified Intelligent Girl Power before Geri had grown

Somerville women had sold out allowing in men, although they were tweedy and dull to start off with (besides having the disadvantage of an old girl in Margaret Thatcher). The other former women's colleges - St Anne's, St Hugh's, Lady Margaret Hall - got swamped by the men they let in and lost their sex appeal. It is left to St Hilda's or St Thrillda's, to use its alternative name - to stamp women's dominance on the university.

into her first trainer bra.

Go to a party. Half the college was there. Write for a student rag. Hildabeasts were running the show. Act, row, you couldn't escape them. In a nice normal mixed college like Lincoln, they all spent three years in the bar

St Hilda's College, Oxford, is the only place where I've walked into another girl's wrestling with knot theory and acne. In St Hilda's we'd written the book, got the doctorate and

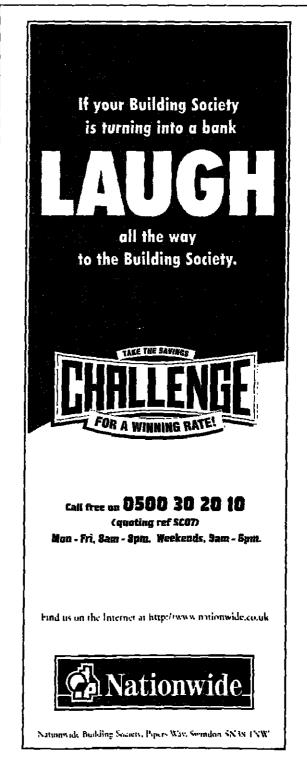
gone out clubbing. Lonely women? Hardly. The college exerted a strange influence over the male psyche. Perhaps it was the preponderance of immature public school boys in Oxford but they couldn't cope with 300 women all in one convent-like building overlooking the river. St Hilda's events were characterised by the sheer, sad desperation of men to get invited to them.

Teams of boys in black tie punted down the river in darkness to crash the St Hilda's ball in my first year, crawling under barbed wire and emerging battered and dusty. Rumours abounded that some sad chemists had even gone as far as snorkelling to get in. Undergraduate balls have been

banned since.
"I thought I had died and gone to heaven," the sociologist Rosalind Miles says, talking of her experience there in 1960s. Sisters, she is joined by a long list of feisty alumnae. Gillian Shephard, Barbara Pym. Zeinab Badawi all went on to great things. It wouldn't have been achieved with self-important whingeing Oxford men in the way.

Two years ago during May Day festivities, Jocelyn Witchard jumped naked off Magdalen Bridge into the river and then posed for The Sun. (That was when the college became known as "St Thrillda's".) Ms Witchard said she was striking a blow for feminism and equal opportunities. You can't imagine anyone from boring old Balliol doing as much for the cause.

Glenda Cooper



business & city

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Government borrowing on track to hit target

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

Government borrowing looks certain to be well within its target this financial year as official figures vesterday showed the strong economy was boosting tax revenues.

The Conservatives will be hoping for more good news on the economy today, with a further big decline in the number of unemployment benefit claimants expected. The one potential embarrassment will be

the publication of the minutes of Kenneth Clarke's February meeting with the Governor of system did not prepare young people adequately for working life. Of the large parties, only the Bank of England, when the Chancellor is thought to have turned down Bank advice to increase interest rates.

Separately, a survey of nearly 250 executives by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants found that nearly two-thirds thought their businesses should pay more tax if the money were used to increase spending on education. A similar majority said the education the Liberal Democrats have pledged to raise taxes for education spending.

The Government spent £3.6bn more than it received in taxes last month, taking the cumulative public sector bor-rowing requirement (PSBR) to £14.1bn in the first 11 months of the financial year. This compares with the target of £26.4bn set in the last Budget. Even with the traditional

end-year spending surge in March, this suggests Mr Clarke could achieve a full-year total several billion pounds below his target. He will be helped by pro-ceeds from the sale of the Housing Corporation's loan

to present much better figures than he forecast, not that it looks like doing him much good," said Kevin Gardiner, an onomist at Morgan Stanley. You would have to go a long way back to find an incoming

"The Chancellor will be able

book this month.

grown by 8.5 per cent during the "It is not until the next recession that it will become apparent that there is an under-

favourable set of economic

Most City analysis think the short-term outlook for government borrowing is favourable because the economy's fast pace of growth is boosting tax revenues. Receipts have

lying problem with the public finances," said David Mackie,

government inheriting such a UK economist at investment bank JP Morgan.

Many experts in the City and elsewhere think government borrowing is on an unsustainable path, with the level of debt relative to the economy having climbed sharply since 1992. This week a paper from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research argued that spending had grown much faster than normal since 1992 given the

Yesterday's figures show expenditure this financial year

the Government's plans. Departmental spending has grown 3 per cent compared with the planned 2.4 per cent.

The Government is finding it increasingly difficult to keep its own spending in check," said David Bloom at James Capel. Labour has pledged to stick to the Conservative plans if it wins the election.

The financial markets had auother attack of the collywobbles. with share prices, gilts and the pound all falling yesterday.



Analysts said this was related to

Analysis and the man and the m

German merger battle: Unions fear £2.6bn deal instigated by smaller rival Krupp-Hoesch would lead to heavy job cuts

Steel giant Thyssen fights takeover bid

How British Steel measures up

World's top steel producers

£24bn

£210m

195,000

Output (millions tonnes)

23.4

18.1

15.5

12.1 12.0

British Steel Krupp-Thysser

Michael Harrison and Imre Karacs

The German steelmaker Krupp-Hoesch vesterday launched a hostile £2.6bn bid for its larger rival Thyssen in a move which would create Europe's biggest steelmaker and spark off a fresh round of rationalisation

and savage job-cutting. The combined group would have sales of £24bn and crude steel production of 18.1 million tonnes, making it the thirdlargest steelmaker in the world and eclipsing British Steel as Eu-

rope's number one producer. But German steel unions fear that the takeover, masterminded by the controversial Krupp-Hoesch chairman, Gerhard Cromme, will merely prove the prelude to heavy job cuts with at least 10,000 of the 110,000-strong Thyssen workforce under threat.

We will not just sit back and let this happen to us. Basically this is undiluted capitalism, pure Wild West methods," said Willy Siegerer, the deputy head of the Thyssen works council. However, other steel makers

gave a guarded welcome to news of the bid, suggesting it could ease the continuing problem of overcapacity that has held prices down and wrought so much damage on the European steel industry.

British Steel said: "Anything which could lead to a reduction in capacity in Europe would be fairly positive. The UK Steel Association

also gave cautious backing. Ian Rodgers, its director of policy, said: "Germany has been the one member state where there

is a need for more rationalisation. If the intention of this bid is to help achieve rationalisation then that can only help the situation in Europe generally."

Steelmaking capacity within the European Union is 203 million tonnes compared with actual crude steel production last year of 148 million tonnes. An attempt by the European Commission four years ago to broker a big reduction in capacity in return for approving further state aid for the steel industry resulted in fewer than 10 million tonnes of capacity being

Hostile bids are virtually unheard-of in Germany, making vesterday's move by Krupp-Hoesch, in which the Iranian government has a 25 per cent stake, highly unusual. Howev-

Pre-tax profits £1.1bn

(per tonne)

1 Nippon Stee

US Steel

Arbed

9 Kawasaki

10 Sumitomo

Krupp-Thyssen

British Steel

Usinor Sacilor

Posco

£7bn

54,000

Turnover

Employees

er, it is consistent with Mr Cromme's track record. He created Krupp-Hoesch in 1991 by engineering Fried Krupp's hostile takeover of Hoesch with

the loss of 20,000 jobs. Union members from both companies surrounded Krupp-Hoesch's head office in Essen yesterday, shouting to Mr Cromme to address them. Mr Cromme, known in the industry as "the job-killer", hid behind bullet-proof glass and

Reports of 30,000 job losses in the steel industry after a takeover of Thyssen were "pure panic-mongering," he told the protesters. There was, he assured them, no plan to close any plants, though the merged com-pany would try to streamline production. The workers re-

British Steel

sponded at one point by trying to storm the building and then

pelting it with eggs. Krupp-Hoesch is offering DM435 per share, a 25 per cent increase on the final price reached before shares in both companies were suspended in Frankfurt. Thyssen shares jumped to DM410 in unofficial trading after the announce-

Krupp-Hoesch 66,000 people, and in the fiscal year ending 31 December reported a net profit of DM208m on sales of DM24bn. For the fiscal year ending 30 September Thyssen reported a net profit of DM350m on sales of DM38.7bn. It had a market value of just under DM12bn before the shares were suspended.

Krupp-Hoesch said the planned merger was in response to intense global competition. In order to stay competitive, German industry had to cut its costs of production, logistics and distribution. "It is indispensable to achieve sufficient size in business in accordance with global standards," Krupp-Hoesch said in a statement.

Analysts say that synergies between the two companies in flat steel products and automotive pressings would make the merger attractive and could pave the way for the cost cuts needed to improve Germany's competitiveness against other Euro-pean steel makers. A tonne of crude steel produced by Thyssen costs DM160, compared with DM155 in France and DM120 by British Steel.

For that reason, the bid is not likely to be opposed by the German authorities, but it will have to be approved by the European



Under siege: Gerhard Cromme, chairman of Krupp-Hoesch (left), being protected from demonstrators by company security guards holding protective shields outside the steelmaker's headquarters in Essen yesterday

Second warning sends DK shares crashing

City Editor

Shares in Dorling Kindersley crashed to a three-year low yes-terday after the illustrated book and CD-Rom publisher warned that the strong pound, trading problems in America and an accounting change would hit profits in the year to June. It was the company's second warning in three months and yesterday's 51p group turnover. Large chains fall to 270p means the former gogo stock has more than halved in value over the past year.

Since the shares peaked at 645p last May, more than £260m has been wiped from DK's market capitalisation, reducing the value of the stake held by founder Peter Kindersley's family by almost £100m. He remained defiantly positive vesterday, insisting the problems facing the company were one-off blips.

Hong Kong ___ 12748.91

Analysts reacted less sanguinely to news that, despite a 9 per cent rise in half-year profits to £6.78m, the full-year result would lag last year's £17,4m. One broker slashed

his forecast from £18m to £10m. The company blamed an upheaval in the American bookselling industry for trading problems in a market which now such as Barnes & Noble had reined in the rapid growth of recent years. Mr Kindersley said, and reduced stock in a hid to counter mounting losses.

The soaring pound is also causing problems, with 70 per cent of DK's sales made overseas, although it had warned the City of the threat last December. More unexpected was the announcement that software development costs, which were

13868.24 10204 87 3 32†

Source: FT Information

amortised over the life of DK's increasingly important CD-Rom products, would be written off as incurred. That reduced halfyear profits by £1.6m.

To counter the problems in its retail sales channels, Mr Kindersley said DK would accelerate the expansion of its direct sales operation. Dorling Kindersley Family Learning, which employs around 20,000 consultants to sell books and CD-Roms straight to homes and schools.

A target of 50 per cent of sales by 2000 has been set, up from 15 per cent currently, and operations in Australia and Russia have been launched.

Mr Kindersley said he was confident of the future of electronic publishing. DK saw multimedia sales rise 31 per cent in the period to account for 15 per cent of group turnover.

The exploded book, page 3 in China today. We think there is an opportunity to develop

Ashtead Group 274.5

Grand Met's plans to tap into Chinese spirits

Teresa Poole

Confucius, who had a very strict view of the "virtuous, moral life", would not have approved. In his birthplace of Qufu, in Shandong province, bottles of Smirnoff vodka. Grand Reserve VSOP, and Old Gold whisky are now rolling off the production lines at Grand Metropolitan's first Chinese joint venture, which was officially opened this week.

But will Chinese yuppies develop a taste for for vodka? The issue here is about developing a new category, Richard Watling, Asia managing direc-tor for the group's drinks arm, International Distillers and Vintners (IDV), said yesterday, "Vodka is a tiny category in China today. We think there

Smirnoff into the refreshment drinking area, that it is the younger consumers who are prepared to experiment, willing to pay a little bit of extra monev for a high quality product that is mixable and a long drink. To that extent we are probably competing as much with premium local beers." In other words, vodka will not be pitched

head to head against the national white spirit - "bai jiu". The Qufu production line is a \$27m (£17m) venture with the state-owned Qufu Distillery. producers of the successful "Confucius Family Liquor". IDV has a two thirds stake, and its

Chinese partner holds the rest. Advertising starts this week in Shanghai for Smirnoff, or Si Mei Luo (Thinking Beautiful Luo River) as it is known in Chinese, a wholly Chinese-made product. Grand Reserve, or Di are tariff rated at 70 per cent.

Xuan (Emperor's Choice) brandy, is a new brand name to be pitched at the southern city of Guangzhou. Old Gold, or Ao

Jin (Proud Gold), whisky is on

sale in Peking, a brand name previously only used in Brazil,

but a blend "crafted especially

for the Chinese market' Local production is IDV's preferred long-term strategy. So far, fDV's imports have been well under \$100m a year, bccause its brands do not compete with premium status liquors. But Grand Met's chairman, George Bull, yesterday said that, with imports accounting for less than 1 per cent of the China total drinks market, IDV was aiming at the "huge potential" of the domestically produced market.

And at less than £8 a bottle, the first three products are more affordable than imports, which

Limelight shares in slump

Shares in the Moben kitchens to Dolphin bathrooms group Limelight crashed 35p to 107.5p yesterday only months after the group came to the market at 175p, netting £60m for the company's founder, Stephen Boler, writes Tom

The meltdown in the company's share price so soon after flotation is a serious embarrassment for its blue chip advisers, the sponsor N M Rothschild and the broker Cazenove.

The collapse in the share price followed confirmation by the company that trading in the first 12 weeks of the year had been difficult.

Limelight said total group sales were 11 per cent less than the same period a year ago, with its kitchen division the worst affected. Sales in kitchens are down 24 per cent on last year, the company said. Limelight sells established

brand-name products, that include Moben, Kitchens Direct, Sharps, Dolphin and Portland.

"Moben is suffering from-weak demand and sales are down 32 per cent, which compares to a 74 per cent rise in the same period a year ago, the company said.

Limelight was valued at £175m by a placing and intermediaries offer last November which raised £113.8m. The money went to existing share-bolders, who were selling or cut-ting their stakes, rather than to the company itself. Mr Boler, who is also a large shareholder at Manchester City football club, reduced his stake from just under 50 per cent to 17 per cent, raising £60m from the flotation.

RECs hand big price cuts to 5 million customers

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

Two of the largest regional elec-tricity companies (RECs), East-ern and Southern, yesterday announced substantial price cuts from April affecting more than 5 million domestic customers.

Eastern, part of the Energy Group which recently de-merged from Hanson, is cutting charges by between 6 per cent and 9 per cent, knocking £18-£30 off an average £300 bill. Southern, the only REC which is still independent, is to cut around 7.2 per cent off its charges, reducing average annual bills from £272 to £245.

Both companies confirmed that the entire value of the reductions was the result of regulatory price changes they are obliged to pass on, or from the cut in the fossil fuel levy, a "tax" which subsidises nuclear power and other non-fossil fuels. Southern had already re-

duced bills by 4 per cent last summer to take into account the cut in the levy. Eastern said about half of its price cut was the result of the levy reduction. The rest of the cuts come from lower National Grid transmission charges - the result of a tough new price regime starting next month — and the impact of the current distribution price cap which accounts for the bulk of the RECs' charges. This year Eastern must reduce its dis-

on talk

tribution charges by 2 per-centage points below inflation. Eastern is also introducing new pricing packages, including a tariff which offers a lower rate per unit if households spend more than £225 a year. Prepayment meter customers will also see the £25 surcharge Eastem makes for the service spread across the other charges. Another innovation is a "green' tariff, to be offered later this year, where customers could buy power generated mainly from renewable energy sources.

Roy Thompson, spokesman for the Eastern Regional Consumers' Committee, was sceptical about Eastern's announcement. He said: "They haven't done anything they didn't have to do, put it that way. We also would have preferred Eastern to have abolished the prepayment meter surcharge altogether."

Separately yesterday, the Electricity Consumers' Committees (ECC), the main electricity consumer grown, agreed to take up a seat on the executive committee of the Electric-ity Pool, the controversial body which sets wholesale power prices. The move comes after a row between the two sides over lack of consumer representation in pool affairs.

Yvonne Constance, ECC chairman, said she would "refuse to be bound by any confidentiality agreements in the pool".





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CURRENCIES

مكذا من الأصل



'in the absence of any form of regulation for the bus industry Stagecoach has made a fortune by crunching the competition and. along the way, the

railways are not turning out quite the same way

customer as well. The

Stagecoach could be in for a very rough ride

مكدًا من الأصل

Brian Cox, the chairman of South West Trains, must be used by now to apologising for cancellations; his long-suffering passengers are certainly used to taking his published timetables with generous helpings of Saxa. The one cancellation he will not be apologising for, however, is the craven deci-sion of MPs to abandon today's scheduled grilling of SWT before the Commons Transport select committee.

The Conservative majority on the com-mittee has decided that it would not be appropriate to continue with its work programme now that an election has been alled. Nothing to do, you understand, with the appalling advertisement for rail privati-sation that SWT has turned into.

Those who had been looking forward to some blood sport on the committee corridor of the Commons will have to console themselves instead with the press conference called by the Labour minority to protest at this blatant piece of politicking. Mr Cox's day will come, however. Presuming Labour does sweep to power, SWT may be in for a rougher ride than anything the select com-

mittee could throw at it. That goes not just for SWI, but for its parent company Stagecoach too. In four short years the group has been transformed from a modest bus operator into one of the biggest quoted transport groups on the market by a combination of chairman Brian Souter's guile and the willingness of sober-suited

Stagecoach is a classic example of a business that has risen too fast on a tide of cheap paper, mounting debts and the deal-making reputation of one man. So far Mr Souter has had all the breaks. He spotted that the bus industry was being privatised in a way that put passengers very firmly in the back seat, leaving entrepreneurs such as him to drive what can only be described as a coach and horses through what passes for competition policy.

In the absence of any form of regulation for the bus industry, Stagecoach has made a fortune by crunching the competition and, along the way, the customer as well. Unfortunately, the railways are not turning out quite the same way. They have tiresome things like performance regimes, minimum standards and big fat fines for those who cut

too may corners. The City is belatedly waking up to the possibility that Stagecoach has over-extended itself. An incoming Labour government and a much more hostile regulatory environment may be all it takes to turn the run

Labour's utilities policy smacks of confusion

It was a little rich of Labour to seize on yes-Lterday's Trade and Industry Select Committee report on energy regulation to back its case for a windfall profits tax. That was not what the report either said or implied, though

it did make the entirely obvious and uncontentious observation that electricity profits had been excessive and that this was in part down to the fact that regulators had underestimated the scope for efficiency gains.

Moreover, the report actually contradicts Labour policy in recommending the retention of the RPI minus X system of price regulation. This is found to be a superior system to any of the other methods examined. Labour policy for regulating the electricity industry has not yet been set in concrete, but it has for water and it is reasonable to assume that Labour would wish to apply the same "profit sharing" principles to electricity.
Unfortunately for Labour, "annual formula

profit sharing" and other alternatives such as rate of return" and "sliding scale regulation are specifically dismissed by the committee "because they are likely to erode incentives". Quite so, but were the committee's Labour members aware they were disavowing party policy when they signed up to this document? After Gordon Brown's continued confusion yesterday about who the windfall profit tax would apply to and on what basis, it seems

all too likely that they were not.

It is still not clear what Labour wants to do about the utilities, other than make political capital out of them and pillage them for as much as it dares in its search for new forms of taxation. Now along comes the Trade and Industry select committee to say that the present system of price regulation be left pretty much unchanged.

The irony is that this is the very same system that resulted in the "excess" everyone complains of. Furthermore, it is a system which in a way is actually designed to encourage excess. The idea behind price cap regulation is that it provides encouragement to improved efficiency because companies be allowed to keep for shareholders any "excess" return they earn. These efficiency gains are then recognised on behalf of

What the windfall profits tax does, in effect, is retrospectively attempt to claw back these "excess" returns. It is hard not to draw the conclusion that intellectually Labour is all at sea over these issues.

customers at the time of the five-year peri-

Lanica won't profit from waking up Co-op

abour has promised it would change the rules to protect the Co-Op movement from break-up but in the meantime what is the Co-Op doing to save itself? The Co-Op may have its heart in the right place but is also paralysed by its worthy democratic traditions and riven by the in-fighting of its vested interest groups. If it fails to re-invent itself, it will face death by a thousand cuts.

Take the following. The Co-Op movement is run for the benefit of the 51 different regional societies which in turn have 560,000 members between them. Individual mem-

bership costs £1 for life. It is refundable if you leave but cannot be sold at a profit. Benefits include a free glossy magazine, discount vouchers in some societies, and the option

to join the Co-Op Women's Guild.
Not tempted? The biggest supposed benefit is the opportunity to have your say in the running of your society going from divisional committee, to regional committee and if lucky and well connected, on to the board, It is a creaking, bureaucratic structure that would never be invented if it did not already exist. The question is what can be done to

One approach would be to merge the 51 societies into one to achieve greater economies of scale. A second would be to start marketing itself on its Co-Op credentials, rather as the Co-Op Bank has done so successfully with its stance on ethical investing. A third is to revive the "divi". This scheme, which qualifies members for a 5 per cent discount, is already on test in Northern Ireland and has recently been revived in Scotland.

The overtures of the youthful Andrew Regan at Lanica Trust look doomed for one simple reason. Unlike the mutual building societies, the individual members do not actually own their society, they just qualify for a say in its operation. As that stake cannot be sold at a profit Mr Regan looks to be on a hiding to nothing. He's shaken a complacent and very dozy old organisation, but he's unlikely to make a penny for his trouble.

BZW chief gets package of over £3m

Barclays paid Bill Harrison, chief executive of its BZW investment bank unit, £2.85m last year, in part due to a £1.5m "golden hello" for when he joined from Robert Fleming.

This is in stark contrast to Barclays' chairman, Andrew Buxton, who received £506,000 in salary and bonuses last year, while the chief executive, Mar-

harming the image of business.

n Taylor, was paid £820,000. that most of Mr Harrison's pay The bank's annual report. tin Taylor, was paid £820,000.

representing senior company directors, yester-

day defended big boardroom pay packages and

blamed bad publicity about "fat cat salaries" for

In a research paper Ruth Lea, who heads the

IoD's policy unit, said she accepted there were legitimate concerns about pay but argued that big companies were right to award managers big

payable at the end of this month. He was also paid a third of his £300,000 salary since joining last September. Mr Harrison's total "emoluments" for the year increased to

over £3.1m when share award schemes and pension contributions are included. A Barclays spokesperson said

published yesterday, also shows payment that was the cost of rethat Mr Harrison was guarancruiting him and was required teed an annual bonus of £1.25m to attract a manager of his calibre. The guaranteed bonus was also a one-off. "It's not that he's going to get £2.9m every year," said the spokesperson. "He's going to

get £300,000 plus a bonus. Mr Harrison's guaranteed minimum bonus for 1997 is £900,000, which is payable by the end of March next year, according to the accounts.

The Institute of Directors, the free-market body

But all too often high pay packages have not been properly handled and this has led to the all-too-familiar media outrage which has hurt business's image. It is vital that pay packages are fully explained." Ms Lea said pay rises for directors were "within the range of European practice and well below those in the US".

The spokesperson added that

The IeD found that small company directors' pay was relatively modest with the boss of a £25mpay rises as a fair reward for success.

"The nation's prosperity depends on them. If they perform their tasks well they shifid be sait."

a year business earning £52,000, plus a bonus of £12,000. The head of a company with sales of they perform their tasks well they shifid be sait. ably rewarded," she said: £82,250 plus a £20,000 bonus.

Mr Harrison's pay should only be judged against that of his American investment banking rivals, who often get much more.

The figures come against a background of difficult times for BZW. Its pre-tax profits fell 29 per cent to £204m last year as an 18 per cent rise in costs out-

stripped revenue growth. Mr Harrison, former head of investment banking at Flemings, was hired after the death of his predecessor David Band last March. Mr Taylor picked him as the man to lead BZW on to the world stage, where at the moment New York-based "bulge bracket" investment banks like Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch dominate.

Mr Band and Mr Taylor had already identified a key obstacle to joining the bigger US rivals. the relative weakness of BZW's markets division. This division includes bonds, derivatives and foreign exchange, and it underperformed last year.



Bill Harrison: A guaranteed

Since his arrival Mr Harrison has embarked on an aggressive and expensive hiring campaign. Bob Diamond, former vice chairman of Crédit Suisse First Boston, has been headhunted

to lead the markets division. More than 140 new staff have arrived since Mr Diamond

ioined. This drive continued yesterday with the top-profile appointment of Roman Schmidt, head of German capital markets at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, to be BZW's new global head

of debt syndicate. Mr Schmidt is well known in the City as a key player in the European capital markets, and he has just completed six years with Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt. Prior to that he worked at CSFB in London, and he typifies the big appointments Mr Harrison has been making in an attempt to turn the

investment bank around. The downside of this hiring has been that BZW has been forced to let go other employ-ees. Buying these City people out of their contracts added £45m to BZW's wages bill last

Organised crime links investigated

The National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD) told Congress it was investigating more than 10 brokerages and 19 companies for possible organised crime links and other securities violations. "Organised crime is included, but our look is much broader than that, at any violation of securities rules or criminal behaviour," said Michael Robinson, a spokesman for NASD. Last month, Mary Schapiro, head of regulation at NASD, wrote to John Dingell, a Michigan Democrat, informing him the industry body was investigating all the securities firms mentioned in a Business Week article in December about organised crime.

Pension fund halts Nomura dealings

America's largest public pension fund, the California Public Employees' Retirement System (Calpers), said it would suspend trading with Nomura Securities following the recently announced scandal at the Japanese brokerage. "We are deeply concerned with the events that have taken place at Nomura Securities," said Charles Valdes, chairman of Calpers' investment committee. Calpers joins Nikko International Capital Management, Daiwa International Capital Management and Nomura Investment Management, which have stopped trading through Nomura.

Shell and Texaco in joint deal

Shell and Texaco have signed a memorandum of understanding to combine part of their US refining and marketing operations. The businesses affected are in the west and midwest of the US. but will continue to market petrol under Shell and Texaco brands. Shell will own 56 per cent of the new company and Texaco 44 per cent. Shell said the link-up, which mirrors a similar deal between BP and Mobil last year, would merge management functions and backup systems in an attempt to cut costs. The new group of US refining capacity.

BT expands Japanese venture

British Telecom is expanding its joint venture in Japan with Marubeni Corporation, which offers data transmission services to business customers. BT said it was merging the joint venture company, Network Information Service, in which it has a 36 per cent stake and Marubeni a 41 per cent stake, into BT Japan, its main operation. The new company will be 51 per cent owned by BT and will have 200 staff and 10,000 customers offering BT's Concert international business products.

World Telecom to raise £7m

World Telecom, which sells global phone cards to customers, is to raise £7m in a flotation on the Alternative Investment Market. The prospectus issued yesterday showed 41 per cent of World Telecom would be sold to outside investors, with shares priced at 150p each. The sale will net Peter Gelardi, the managing director, almost £4m, with a similar windfall for Andrew McWhirter. finance director. The sale values World Telecom at £32m.

Challenging year for Charter

Rail track tie and welding products manufacturer Charter announced a rise in underlying operating profits for 1996 from £89.7m to £92.7m in what chairman Jeffrey Herbert described as a challenging year. Earnings per share, excluding exceptional items, rose 5 per cent to 70.9p and the dividend was increased 7 per cent to 29.5p.

Wilson Connolly pledges extra payout

Wilson Connolly promised shareholders a £10m special dividend worth 5p a share yesterday following its withdrawal from com-mercial property development and expressed optimism that British house prices would continue to rise. The company posted 1996 results showing a 17 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £26.4m.

Company Results Turnover £ Pre-tax £ BSG International (F) 958m (843m) 25 7m (24 1m) -3.43p (5.04p) 3.52p (3.2p) 43 1m (\$1 4m) 9.2m (13.1m) 999.9m (854m) 46m (97.5m) Delta (F) Darwinst Valley (F) Elico Holdlings, (C) 13 9m (12.8m) -1 56m (-0 10m) -4.4p (-0.3p) ni (0.25p) Ex-Lands Properties (f) 4.23m (5.01m) 0.37m (0.97m) 0.32g (-0.9p) - (-) 5.07m (5.31m) Hardy Oil & Gas (N) 37.2m (63.3m) 6.16m (-6.96m) Sp (-5.8p) 1p (1p) 1 32bn (1 25bn) 70.1m (84.2m) 18p (25.76p) 12.75p (12 75p ist Englacering (F) 231m (193m) 1 83m (1,53m) 7,27p (6,3p) 2 4p (3p) Hampdas Group (F) 41 Sm (36.8m) Lopez (F) Manders (F) 5,49m (11 6m) 17 45p (20,24p) 11.5p (-) 53,8m (49 7m) 19.8p (18.8p) 8.0p (7.2p) 7.3p (-13.4p) 4.2p (-) 256m (358m) Ockheen Holdings (F) 19.25a (16.81p) 5 5a (2 65a) 18.8p (15.96p) 6.6p (-) 13.8m (16.0m) Rootsore Group (F) 108m (93 7m) 17 Sm (15.2m) 21.7p (17 8p) 9.65p (8 5p) 44.2p (43.4p) 20p (18p) 32 2m (26.2m) 21 5p (17 3p) 8.5p (-) 98 5m (85.8m) 9.87m (8.52m) 19.5p (16.3p) 3.2p (2.85p) 22.2m (23.7m) 21 7p (23.8p) 10 45p (9.5p) Wateroughs Hidgs (F) 221m (208m) Wilson Councilly (F) 2.28bn (2.08bn) 124m (111m) 14.63p (13.42p) 3.3p (3.1p)

Lira falters on talk of **EMU delays**

Yvette Cooper

The sensitivity of the markets to any adverse news about EMU was exposed yesterday when the mark climbed to a four-month high against the lira following claims by Klaus Dieter Kuehbacher, a Bundesbank council member, that the introduction of the single currency may have to be delayed.

Mr Kuehbacher said: "If I interpret the criteria verbatim, as Finance Minister Theo Waigel has always demanded... delay is the only consequence, unless the federal government still man-ages to limit the deficit to 3 per cent of GDP [and of that] in view of the current economic developments I have my doubts." His comments followed Monday's reiteration by Mr Waigel that meeting the deficit criteria was more important than the EMU timetable.

The lira fell yesterday to its lowest level against the mark since rejoining the exchange rate mechanism in November last year, ending the day at 1005.8 against the mark. The peseta also suffered from the concerns about a delay to EMU. The Bank of Spain and the Bank of Italy intervened during the day to sell marks. European bonds weakened, with Italian and Spanish bonds taking most of the strain. The moves were on a day when Italy became the first inated eurobond, raising £720m.

Analysts said the markets had become highly sensitive test of 3 per cent.

jittery."
Other analysts shrugged off

the importance of remarks made by Bundesbank council members. Thomas Rayner of Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull said: "Kuehbacher's comments are forthright, but the Buba guys can say what they like -it's down to the politicians to

about EMU delays. Alison Cot-trell of Paine Webber said: "None of the fundamentals has changed compared to, say, a week ago. It's just that the taboos against talking about a delay seem to have dropped. The German press are dis-cussing delays. So the markets are prepared to interpret every piece of news in that light." Stephen King of HSBC James Capel said: "Mr Waigel

didn't say anything new this week. The only significance of his remarks is that he is still prepared to make them at a time when he knows the markets are

make the decision. Meanwhile the Bundesbank yesterday appeared to support the idea that the circumstances of reunification should exempt Germany from the Maastricht debt criteria of 60 per cent of GDP, which it is bound to fail in 1997. New figures showed German debt has more than doubled since 1989 to 2,135 million marks. But analysts said that special pleading to relax the debt criteria for Germany should not be interpreted as the



Alex Krauer (above), chairman of Novartis, the glant Swiss drugs group formed a year ago from the merger of Ciba and Sandoz, said most of the integration of the two esses should be completed by the end of this year Mr Krauer unveiled a 2 per cent rise in net income before exceptional items to SFr4.18bn (£1.8bn) for 1996, the

first results for the combined group. Merger costs came to SFr1.9bn after tax. Novartis expects to shed around 4,300 people over the next three years, with 400 going in the UK by the end of 1997. The group plans to centre its respiratory research efforts at a new unit in Sussex,

Cantab seals £11m deal with Glaxo

Magnus Grimond

The recent strong run in the shares of Cantab Pharmaceuticals, the biotech group, was brought to an abrupt end yes-terday after it announced an £11m deal with Glazo Wellcome. The drugs giant is paying £5m for the world-wide marketing and development rights for Cantab's DISC HSV vaccine for genital herpes and investing

£6m for a 4 per cent stake in the company. The shares, which have risen nearly 200p since the beginning of March, dived 60p to £10.12p yesterday, but are still well up on the 560p at which

they stood in October. The deal with Glaxo, the world's leading herpes group, had been widely anticipated and analysts attributed the fall in the price to profit-taking, Duncan Moore at Morgan Stan-

lev said it was a case of "buy on the rumour, sell on the news". However, Jurek Sikorski, who joined Cantab as chief executive last August, welcomed yesterday's deal, which follows licensing deals for other po-tential drugs with Pfizer and SmithKline Beecham. "The signing of this agreement marks a significant step forward for Cantab," he said, "because all

pharmaceuticals industry worldwide. I don't know any other biotechnology company which has more than three corporate partners in the top 10."

The results of UK phase I trials of the vaccine in 24 healthy volunteers will be antoday. If it reaches the market, expected early next century, HSV will represent the first vacthree are in the top 10 in the cine in the Glaxo portfolio.

Capital director's wife owns shares in casino predator

Patrick Tooher

The wife of Capital Corporation's gaming director has emerged as the surprise owner of shares in London Clubs, the rival casino operator which has tabled a hostile £181m takeover bid.

Capital, owner of two upmarket casinos in London's Mayfair. including Crockfords, yesterdey

issued its formal defence docu-

ment, which showed that Julie Dunkley holds 2,000 shares in London Clubs in a singlecompany personal equity plan. By contrast her husband, John Dunkley, does not own a single share in Capital Corporation, though the £200,000-ayear director of gaming holds

1.5 million options worth £3.2m

at last night's closing price of

The defence document also shows that pre-tax profits at started well and argued it was Capital slipped to £9.2m, after a more efficient operator than an exceptional charge of £2.8m, London Clubs, which counts from £13.1m previously.

profits warning in January when it blamed a lower volume of high-rollers, particularly at the tail-end of last year, and a lower overall win percentage in the second half for the shortfall. £20 for London Clubs.

Capital said the new year had The results were flagged in a sadeurs among its seven casinos in the capital. Capital claimed that in the

last four years it made operating profits of £33 on every £100 of win turnover, compared with

London Clubs, which counts the Ritz Club and Les Ambas-cessful, risky or speculative overseas ventures," it said. Crockfords name overseas. "We In response London Clubs,

which also has casino interests in South Africa and Las Vegas, said the comparable figure for its two top-end casinos was £39 and noted that Capital's prof-

Capital appeared to rule out its had fallen in each of the last speculation it would take the four years.

"Capital Corporation's track

record does not allow it to put up a credible defence," said Alan Goodenough, London Clubs' chief executive. "The company's offer document demonstrates a lack of understanding of how to maximise returns from the London gaming

Bobby Moore's son finds a new home at Chelsea

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

Every schoolbov knows that the great Bobby Moore, captain of England's triumphant World Cup soccer team in 1966, played for West Ham. Now I hear that Bobby's son. Dean Moore, has been made publican of the Chelsea Gate, a pub slap bang opposite Chelsea's ground at Stamford

Mr Moore jnr has been assigned this pub by The Magic Pub Company, which acquired it with a bundle of other boozers last year from Greene King for £200m. Can this Chelsea appointment be a practical joke at the young

Mr Moore's expense?

Mounted police are stationed outside the doors of The Chelsea Gate on match days. Whether this is to prevent angry Cheisea fans from wreaking revenge on the son of their former East End rival remains a mystery.

The bitter-sweet news reaches us that Sam Jaffa, noted BBC journalist, has leapt the fence to become head of media relations for Price Waterhouse. the big-six accountancy firm.

Hymning the joys of audits and corporation tax will be quite a contrast to Mr Jaffa's 17-year sojourn at the Beeb. He has reported on the Troubles in Northern Ireland, the Zeebrugge ferry disaster and the Wapping print riots, to name just a few.

He is also famous for having been introduced by a presenter when he was in Belfast with the line: "Sam Jaffa was with the Orangemen."

So why the change to accountancy? "I know people think it's selling out, but I look at it as selling in." he says. "It was time for a change, and PW came up with an attractive offer.

A jovial and sociable 44year-old from Leeds who now lives in Chelsea, Mr Jaffa was known for throwing parties for fellow journalists during the lengthy Blue Arrow trial



his West Ham glory days

in the 1980s. The footballplaying racehorse part-owner also covered a large chunk of the Maxwell affair and published a collection of anecdotes called Maxwell Stories. He's got another book out

in April, Safe as Houses, which traces financial scandals from the South Sea Bubble to the present day. In it he devotes a chapter to BCCL the corrupt international bank which was closed by regulators six years ago. The auditors of BCCI, who were much criticised by regulators after the closure, were none other than PW. No doubt Mr Jaffa's new employers will find his book gripping.

Michael Toulmin, who lost the job of chief executive at United Provincial Newspapers last year, has now been relieved of the chairmanship and has left the group, part of United News & Media, with a pay-off of more than £400,000 after 36 years' service.

He has gone abroad to ski and ponder his future, armed with an antique barograph. presented by his successor as chief executive, Stephen Grabiner, a framed cartoon and a mock-up front page of tributes, a part of every departing journalist's leaving ceremony.

He was also paid glowing tributes by his successor, by Lord Stevens, the chairman of United News & Media, and by Dugal Nisbet-Smith the recently retired director

of the Newspaper Society. But he left no doubt that his departure was not voluntary and he has no firm plans for the future. "At the tender age of 53 I am fortunate to have this change thrust upon me when I can still look forward to putting in a few more years broadening my experi-ence elsewhere," he told his

colleagues. He had been chief executive since 1985 and chairman since 1988. He was on a twoyear contract and his remuneration in 1995 was £205,311. He also holds options on around 183,000 shares. Mr Grabiner, 38, was formerly managing director of the Daily Telegraph and joined UNM last year as executive director with responsibility for all the group newspapers, including the Express titles, and as chief executive of UPN, which is being refocused on its heartland in Yorkshire and the North of England.

Returning to East End sporting heroes for a moment, for-mer heavyweight pugilist Henry Cooper will be among those playing at a charity golf tournament, the City Open, organised by Reuters in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust.

The first stage in April involves 40 pairs per day at 10 golf days, most at the London Golf Club near Sevenoaks. Each pair pays £200 to enter the knock-out round, and the finalists will play in the Bahamas at the end of May.

£10,000 for the charity. More details can be found on Cityscreen on Reuters by typing in KIDS and hitting

735

Wolseley errs on the side of caution

Richard Ireland, the chairman, can rightly boast that the builders' merchant has consistently delivered compound earnings growth of 20 per cent for as long as anyone cares to remember.

Last year's slight profits dip now looks like a mere hiccup and the latest half-year figures make encouraging reading - even if Wolseley continued its tradition of playing down the prospects.

Mr Ireland's words of caution are

worth repeating. The upturn in the UK housing market is described as fragile and "unlikely to deliver much benefit to our UK distribution activities until later this year". There is as yet no sign of a "consistent pattern of improvement across all regions in our lightside and heavyside activities". Mr Ireland is as pessimistic about the

immediate future for in the UK. "Consumers may be reluctant to increase expenditure to any great extent until after

the general election," he suggests.

That is to say nothing of the poor state of the French and Austrian economies as they prepare for European economic and monetary union. All told, the building distribution division in Europe, including the UK, saw trad-ing profits decline by £1.6m to £47.6m. As for building distribution in the US - Wolseley's largest market - first-half trading profits advanced to £56.6m, a 22 per cent rise, but again there was a caveat, this time concerning the strength of sterling. This wiped £4.2m off Wolseley's bottom line and the hit will be even bigger in the second half if exchange rates stay at current levels.

None of this should give cause for undue concern. The healthy state of the balance sheet - gearing is just 13 per

Wolseley has a track record most investors would give their eye teeth for.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Wolseley: at a glance

Market value: \$2.81tin, shate tricks 4850

is exposed to the new-build market. House broker Albert E Sharp looks for pre-tax profits of £274m, rising to £307m in 1998. That puts the shares, down 1.5p to 495p, on a prospective p/e of 15 falling to less than 14. Hold.

Aga market warms up

Glynwed International, the Aga cookers to metals distribution group, has been trying hard to escape the business cycle. Mid-way through 1995, it beefed up its presence in the market for UK infrastructure projects when it paid £170m for Victaulic, a maker of pipeline parts for the water industry and for BG, the transportation side of the old British Gas. It followed that up last year by dumping four businesses with combined trading losses of £900,000, principally the historic Wednesbury

Tube copper pipes operation. The losses and expected losses on the lisposals accounted for the bulk of Glynwed's £16.2m exceptional charge last to hold its profits fall to 3 per cent. year, up from £700,000 before, cutting pre-tax profits from £84.2m to £70.1m

Trading record

in the year to December. But even stripping that lot out, the marginal rise from £84.9m to £86.3m suggests it has a long

way to go to break free from the cycle. Not surprisingly perhaps, the good news came from the consumer businesses. Glynwed shifted 15 per cent more sinks and cookers last year, with its up-market products doing particu-larly well. As well as the Agas, which sell at up to £8,000 a piece, the less exalted Flavel-Leisure cooker business is expanding capacity to meet demand for its new Rangemaster offering, which retails at up to £1,800.

The pipe systems business was boosted by a first full-year contribution of £15m from Victaulic, but much of the rest of Glynwed was hamstrung by weak European markets and a slump in the price of non-ferrous metals. The weak German market hit demand for drain covers and the like, while the division bashing engineering steel into the shapes required by makers of everything from hand tools to tractors saw volumes slump 7 per cent in 1996. Exports, mostly to Europe, slumped £15m and ng operation did well the metals proces

The real pain, however, came in metals distribution, where a 40 per cent

slide in aluminium prices sliced profits by 44 per cent to £12m.

Many of Glynwed's problems in 1996 should not recur this year, when the continued apturn in the cycle should help. It will also most likely use its 26 per cent gearing to continue diversifying outside the UK. Assuming profits around £94m, the shares, down 0.5p at 304p, stand on a modest multiple of 12. Attractive only as a short-term buy.

Heal's has a lot in store

Heal's stock market flotation is likely to attract a good deal of interest from smaller investors. A well-known high street brand, it has a strong reputation particularly for beds, and its customers have included the Queen.

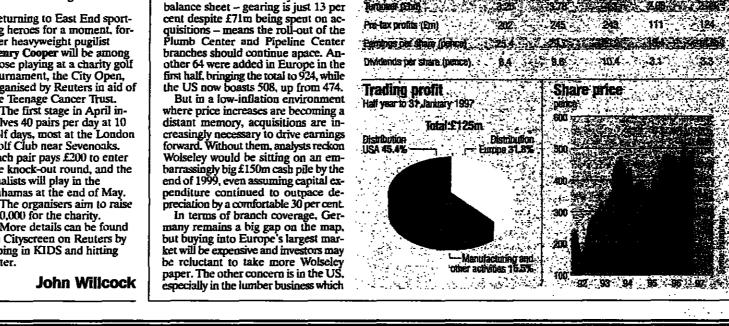
The shares have now been priced at 175p, valuing Heal's at £21.3m. On earnings last year of 12.27p, that puts the shares on a historic multiple of 14. or 17.4 after adjustments, a discount to the stores sector.

One drawback for smaller punters is that this is only a placing so investors not linked to a broker can only buy shares after dealings start on 24 March. Another is that Heal's is coming to the market in a period of some uncertainty. The marathon election campaign is unsettling and whichever party wins, the stock market is expecting higher in-terest rates, which could affect sales of higher ticket items, such as beds and sofas. There have also been signs of a slowdown in some parts of the retail market in recent months.

Against that is the prospect of windfall bonuses from the Halifax, Woolwich and other mutual society flotations.

Heal's ought to benefit from this. The trick for the company will be to expand its store portfolio from its base of three into a larger chain without drifting downwards into the mass market. The company is raising £1.8m to fund expansion and is looking at around 10 stores in total, which looks about right. So far Heal's has two stores in London and one in Guildford, so there is plenty of room for growth in the UK before moving into buoyant overseas retail markets like Dublin.

Heal's is always going to a cyclical company whose fortunes are linked to the housing market. And competition will come not just from Habitat and the Conran Shop, but department stores such as the mighty John Lewis. So there are threats, but with a strong brand name, the competitively priced shares are still worth a look.



INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALE

LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

Top Fifty League Table

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 9 MARCH

POS.	NAME	TEAM	POINT
_	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	JOSI MARTI	796
2	MR ASHLEY BRETTLE	RELEGATION 12	788
3	MR SEAN BROSNAN	OASIS	776
4	MR WILLIAM BARR	KRUEGER F.C	772
5	MR SIMON LIU	DEFENCE ROVERS	771
6	MR SCOTT MCINERNEY	-	770
7	MR JOHN COX	SOUTHFILL F.C.	769
8	MR GRAHAM LONGSDANE	SANDLING STROLLERS	767
9	MR ADAM HOGG	BLAGGY HOGG	766
10	MR JONATHAN FURNESS	REDSTAR CARDIFF	765
11	MR IAN GROUT	SILK CITY	762
11	MR RICK YAP	OUT OF MIND	762
13	MR GARFIELD MCCULLEN	GARFIELD BOYS SECOND	761
13	MR KEITH HORRY	ORGANIC MANURE F.C.	761
15	MR PAUL MATTHEW	THE DOOR MAT	760
16	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	ARLENSIU	756
17	MR J GODWIN	NORVOOD	753
18	MR A MORGAN	KICK START	752,
18	MR ANDREW GODDEN	F.C. ALZEY	752
20	MR SIMON DRAPER	PLATE F.C.	751
20	MR GARY HARROWS	101 STARS	751
20	MR JONATHAN DAVIS	GOLDEN TEAM	<i>7</i> 51
20	MR ROBERT GREENFIELD	THE GULLS	751
24	MR JONATHAN MCCROSSEN	WASH TOP ARMY	750
25	MR DARREN NICHOLAS	EDNA	749
25	MR JOE GOODING	TEAM SQUIDLIPS	749
27	MR TONY AKINDALE	OLLIE VILLA	748
28	MR WOODHOUSE	LEE BURNS CHEST	747
29	MR ANDY SWANNEY	DOG'S BRICK	746
29	MR P HEMMINGWAY	WAGON WHEELS	746
29	MR O J JOHNSON	THE AWAY WINNERS	746
32	DR STEPHEN MATTHEWS	IMPERIAL BATES	745
33	MR PAUL RICHARDSON	CINCINATI STORM	744
33	MR ANDREW BOLTON	ANDREW'S B TEAM	744
35	MR P CURRAN	•	742
36	MR CHRIS SCOTT	BRUCE LEE F.C.	741
36	MR BILL COOPER	YEP MOP 2006	741
36	MR BARRY MORGAN	BAZZA'S BOYS	741
36	MR G WHITE	WHITE CITY	741
40	MR ASHLEY BRETTLE	FAKE MADRID	739
41	MR J TARBOX	WARDEN	738
41	MR KRISTOV BAERWALD	TOM & PHILIP	738
43	MR STEVEN HART	KEE'S COWBOYS	737
13	MR S KING	CRUISING ALEXANDREA	737
43	DR STEVE GILL	MORE POINTS THAN SOTON	737
43	MR MARK HAYDEN	TROWBRIDGE WANDERERS	737
43	MR ANDY LANE	IF ANYONE CAN TOUCAN	737
18	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	SANDINO	736
9	MR R PRINGLE	DEEPDALE VILLA 7	735
	ME V B MALCOLM	INTER MALCOLM	775

MR K B MALCOLM

THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

supported by Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs.

The Team Market and Scores table published below, shows four scores. The Week 31 (Wk 31) column lists all points scored in Premiership matches played between Monday 10 March - Sunday 16 March inclusive. Column B lists all points scored before the transfer period. Column A lists all points scored after the transfer period. The Overall (Ov) column lists the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 16 March.

Also published today is the Top 50 League table (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Independent Fantasy Football managers and their teams for matches played between Saturday 17 August - Sunday 9 March.

oday we publish the latest results in our Results will be published every Wednesday in The vious Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday, in the Independent on Sunday. The overall Top 50 League table will be printed every Wednesday and again on Sunday. Terms and conditions as previously published

SCORING SYSTEM

4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet = 3 points for a successful assist = I point when a player is selected and plays **= 1 point** for a winning goal = 3 points for a manager win, I point for a draw ■ Lose I point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3

PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

TEAM MARKET AND SCORES B-Before transfer period A-After transfer period

Section Column		UYERAL	L SCO	RE CA	ILCUI	LAIL	ED 0	IN MA	11 CHI	S PLATED	HOP	1 1 / A	UGUS	1 - 1	0 M	AKC	C ME	EK 31 SC	ORE CA	UUL	XIED (ON N	AIC	HES	PLA	YED FROM	I 3 MA	RCH -	- 16 MA	RCH	
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SEAQ YOLUME

836,710 shares. 61,746 bargains

Gills Index

Pre-election bid speculation finds a focus in BG

FTSE 250 4661.5 30/5 As the election campaign got of corporate action refuse to under way the stock market die down. cast around for possible corporate activity to provide BG and Centrica, has, howsome action in the run up to polling day.

BG, the pipeline and exploration and production side of the split British Gas, emerged a group like Shell. as the initial favourite for takeover attention.

analysts, jumped 5p to 173.5p. Shell, often rumoured as being interested in British Gas before the break-up, was said to be lining up a deal. The gen-erators, National Power and

The demerger, producing ever, freed BG from many of the old problems and its ex-

a group like Shell. Centrica, too, has been sublar often brisk trading its shares, already regarded as wantonly overpriced by many analysts, jumped 5n to 173 5n. bumping along at their low. Shell, in a firm oil sector, rose 6.5p to 1.089.5p and
British Petroleum, as a US securities firm called First Albany
said buy, added 6.5p to 709.5p.

Lasmo, with Pakistan strike

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

once again evidence of small investors locking in some of their profits from the bull run with private client stockbrokers

between the German Thyssen and Krupp steel groups, was seen as likely to lead to firmer prices. Railtrack was another

stock market reporter of the year down by its big US involve-ment, fell to a new 12-month low - off 11.5p to 628.5p. Reed International, rumoured to be

often busy.

The possibility of a Labour windfall tax failed to dampen British Steel, up 4.5p to 158.25p; the planned merger between the German Thyssen. ter to travel than arrive. Its long-rumoured vaccine link with Glaxo Wellcome was finally confirmed and high flying

ustries remained under the whip of the Kleinwort Benson

downgrading, falling a further 15p to 716.5p. Rolls-Royce slipped 1.5p to 241.5p. Overseas shareholders now account for 29.34 per cent of the shares; if the 29.5 per cent ceiling is breached there will be forced selling. Limelight, the bathroom

and kitchen group, had that plug-hole feeling with the shares slurping 35p lower to 107.5p as it confirmed ru-mours of dismal trading. Dor-

a spin. Smith lost 19.5p to falling to a 9p low. The company produced a stark profit warning last month when it closed four fifths of its pubturnover, and parted from with

four directors. Card Clear, the credit card protection group, put on 2p to 47p; it is buying a US company specialising in the prevention of telecom credit car fraud. Tomorrow CC plans a presen-

tation to institutions, Flextech, fresh from its deal [] Eleco, making building with the BBC, slumped 64.5p materials, gained 2p to 15p, to 686.5p as the market fretted despite an increased halfto 686.5p as the market fretted mours of dismal trading. Dor-ling Kindersley, the reference book and CD-Rom publisher.

about director share sales.

Hay & Robertson fell 17p to
chairman John Ketteley is
accelerating the property

Taking Stock

☐ Fledgling hotel company Hanover International firmed 2p to 149.5p on talk of a possible takeover bid. Put togethlishing arm, which represented er by Peter Eyles, who used to £1.7m of the group's £4.2m run Norfolk Capital, it has seven botels, most acquired from a French finance house which repossessed them during the recession. Thistle Ho-tels, 2p lower at 185.5p, is rumoured to have an acquisition in its sights. Hanover is capitalised at £26m.

PowerGen, and assorted US groups were also put in the frame. The Gas story, in one forms or another, is, if nothing else, displaying remarkable reshience. Despite the poison pill of its deep-rooted and far reaching difficulties, rumours PowerGen, and assorted US Lasmo, with Pa hopes resurfacing to 256p and JKX The Gas story, in one forms any pill faired 12.5p to 46 The rest of the atypically pre-cle tience. Footsie to its deep-rooted and far reaching difficulties, rumours 16.5 off at 4.356.8	gained 4.5p without a windfall care - up Oil and Gas p. without a windfall care - up 3.5p to 464.5p. But Labour's tax proposal was not totally ignored; BAA, the airports cation expe- was at one was at one souttishPower dimmed 5.5p to ints, closing Cantab promptly fell 60p from its 1.072.5p peak. Shield Diagnostic slipped 12.5p to 660p. Reports of a price war in the music market, with Tesco and Safeway cutting album prices,	book and CD-Rom publisher, lost 51p to 270p as the strong pound was blamed for an expected year's profit fall. The plight of another CD Rom group, Epic Multimedia, worsened with the shares, floated at 105p in May, losing 25 per cent of their value and 105p in May, losing 25 per cent of their value and 105p in May, losing 25 per cent of their value and 105p in May, losing 26 per cent of their value and 105p in May, losing 27.5p. A few weeks ago the shares touched 178.5p. At last month's shareholders meeting the property disposal programme to reduce borrowings. The plight of another CD Rom publisher, last month's shareholders meeting the property disposal programme to reduce borrowings. The plight of another CD Rom publisher, last month's shareholders meeting the property disposal programme to reduce borrowings. The plight of another CD Rom publisher, last month's shareholders meeting the property disposal programme to reduce borrowings. The plight of another CD Rom publisher, last month's shareholders meeting the property disposal programme to reduce borrowings. The plight of another CD Rom group, Epic Multimedia, well as the Football Association, made an upbeat trading statement.
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TOWCESTER

sport

RACING: On the eve of tomorrow's start to a new season on the level, the top trainers tell lan Davies their horses to follow

Fancy free as the Flat moves to centre stage

JACK BERRY

"Somosierra, a two-year-old colt by Paris House, should go well in the Brocklesby Stakes at Doncaster [tomorrow]. The string isn't as forward as usual but my yard has a reputation for having its horses ready early and I feel that, if I don't get mine as fit as possible. I'll be letting the punters down. Somosierra has been showing speed at home and, although I'm in the dark as to how he will compare with other trainers' two-year-olds, I'm hoping he'll give a good account. Hey-Up-Mate named after the trainer's method of expressing salutations] is another fikely. early sort, who should soon be

running."
CLIVE BRITTAIN "Fantastic Fellow has done extremely well over the winter and I'm aiming him at the Greenham Stakes at Newbury en third to Dushyantor and Mons route to the 2,000 Guineas. A big strong colt, he won a York and I reckon he had simply had maiden before finishing fourth enough for the year when he to Desert King in the National Stakes at the Curragh. He led Cumberland Lodge Stakes on until near the finish when fourth to Bahamian Bounty in the Middle Park Stakes at Newmarket. He will need a mile. Air Express is another who has wintered well. He's very stordy and did well last year, despite a cracked hoof. He will be aimed at the Free Handicap at the Craven meeting before go-

ing for the 2,000 Guineas. NEVILLE CALLAGHAN Danetime has come on over the winter. He won a maiden as a juvenile over six furlongs and was second in the Houghton Stakes but will want seven furlongs or a mile this year. Chieftain is a two-year-old I like. He John Dunlop: Bahhare plan

is by Indian Ridge and has been showing ability. He will be ready to run in April." PETER CHAPPLE-HYAM

has wintered very well and has

grown about half an inch, which is about right. I have kept him on the go and he has just done his first serious piece of work. He will run in a Classic trial only if the weather gets bad and he is held up in his work. Otherwise he will go straight for ei-ther the 2,000 Guineas or the French 2,000 Guineas at Longchamp, where he enjoyed so much success as a two-year-old. I hope Revoque will be a Derby horse but, while I'm sure he'll stay 10 furlongs, I can't be sure about him staying a mile and a half. Royal Court has strength-ened up really well and I think he has a big future. He ran a terrific race when two lengths in the Great Voltigenr Stakes

Cumberland Lodge Stakes on Frankie Dettori day at Ascot."

ROGER CHARLTON

King Alex had some prob-lems last year and ran only twice, winning a Leicester maid-en and then finishing second to Dr Massini at York. He has Revoque is in great form. He will be looking to start him off in a conditions race over 10 fur-longs in April. He will stay a mile and half and should develop into a pattern-race performer. He would not want the ground too firm and might prove suited by an easy surface. Wixim is another lightly-raced sort, who should progress. He won a Ripon maiden last year and runs in the Doncaster Mile [tomorrow]."
PAUL COLE

"Yorkshire had physical problems last year and was prone to scarring easily, but he has come through the winter extremely well. He won easily over a mile at Salisbury and the is by Cole's 1991 Derby winner, Generous is going to need every inch of a mile and a half this year. I'll start him off in one of the Derby trials. Merit will again be trained for the Chester Cup – which he won by six lengths last year. He goes well on soft ground." LUCA CUMANI

"Man Howa has done very well and should achieve things this year. He showed promise as a two-year-old, finishing second to Yashmak in a six-furlong Newmarket maiden before winning a similar race in July. Having had only the two runs he is very fresh and could improve a lot. He will be ready to run in April and will be suited by seven furlongs to a mile. Jamity Jack ran three times last year, finishing second each time and the form of those races looks good. He

It's time to talk turf. The Flat turf season starts at Doncaster tomorrow, the Lincoln is on Saturday and the Craven meeting is just 27 days away. Trainers are getting serious with their strings and already have a shrewd idea what 1997 will hold for them. Some believe the next few months will bring Classic success, others hope to stage coups in big – and small – handicaps. Game plans are being drawn up and stratagents devised. Following a list of horses is a fascinating alternative to form-book study and can throw up big-priced winners. The Independent's trainers' list of Flat horses to follow in 1996 ran 144 times, winning 25 Flat races — and two over hurdles — and showing a pre-tax profit of £43.16 to a £1 stake. They included Royal Ascot's King Edward VII Stakes winner Amfortas (66-1). Nunsharpa (14-1), Junairah Sunset (12-1) and Tarawa (10-1).

en over 10 furlongs in April."

ED DUNLOP

rous Gift is a three-yearold who has matured in recent months and should stay a mile and a half. He was a close second in a mile maiden at Thirsk and will start off in a mile and a quarter maiden at the Craven meeting. Jamrat Junairah has had lots of problems. She ran once as a two-year-old and again made only one appearance last year when winning a Pontefract maiden by five lengths. Although that was on a fast surface, I think she needs give. The plan is to get her some black type [awarded for winning or being placed in a pattern race – which enhances stud value. She won over a mile but might have the speed to prove effec-

tive at seven furiongs."

JOHN DUNLOP "Babhare has done well physically over the winter. He has strengthened up and my intention is to run him in the Craven Stakes rather than the Greenham at Newbury, where the ground is sometimes soft. Bah-

is going to stay a mile and a half but fast ground and I don't think but I will start him off in a maid-he d like it soft. He will then go for the 2,000 Guineas. Timeform seems to think he might stay the Derby trip, but I have my doubts. His half-brother Bahri didn't and I'm inclined to think he will be a miler. Silver Patriarch is a stayer. He won a listed race over a mile and a quarter at Newmarket and will start off in a Derby trial simply because, having won that pattern race, there's nothing else for him. He could run in the

Derby but, even at this stage, I

think he might be more of a St

Leger horse WILLIE HAGGAS "Yeast is a thoroughly genuine horse who I'm lucky to have. He's high in the weights for handicaps now and we're hoping to turn him into a patternrace performer. He'll need to shaping after he runs in the he wins that, he may go for the Sandown Mile although he is best on a straight track. Royal Crusade is a nice colt by Diesis who won the Chesterton Maiden Stakes over a mile at New-

and, while he isn't a strapping horse, he is imposing in a fine-ly-made, polished, way. He won't take much getting ready and I intend to run him in a Derby trial. He'll get a mile and a quarter and I'm hopeful he may stay a mile and a half." JOHN HILLS

"Crimson Tide finished second in a 7f Salisbury maiden and then won the Houghton Stakes. He was a baby last year out has improved a great deal through the winter. By Sadler's Wells, he is bred to stay a mile and a half standing on his head and he will start in one of the Derby trials at Sandown or the 10-furlong race at the Guineas meeting. He holds an entry in the 2000 Guineas and, as he shows plenty of speed, might just take his chance. Reunion is a threeyear-old filly who won at Redcar in May but then had a setback. We got her back on the track in September when she finished last of three, beaten only two lengths in a conditions event at Leicester. Having won and then gone close in a conditions race, the Handicapper won't rate her lower then 85, so I'm forced to start her off in another conditions event. Although I'd like to go to Catterick or somewhere like that with her, the only such races for three-year-old fillies in April progress again and we will have are the Nell Gwyn Stakes and a lot more idea of how he's the Fred Darling Stakes. We'll shaping after he runs in the have to throw her in at the deep Doncaster Mile [tomorrow]. If end but at least we'll have an idea of how good she's going to be. She might be a likely sort for the Italian 1.000 Guineas."

"Double Ecl

start off in that again and then go for the Gold Cup. I really do think he is in the same class as Double Trigger but I don't want he should pay his way at up to them clashing in anything other than a Group One race. One race I have in mind for Double Eclipse is the Prix du Cadran at Longchamp in October as Double Trigger has nev-er done any good there. Fly To The Stars missed most of last season. He was unlucky in both races we did manage to get into him. He delighted me by finishing four lengths third of 23

maiden tag at Doncaster [he runs in the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes (4.40) tomorrow] hefore going on to better things.

LYNDA RAMSDEN Jack Ramsden, the trainer's professional gambler, said: "I'd

in a 6f maiden at Newbury and

finished strongly when second

in a 16-runner 7f maiden at

Redcar. He should lose his

husband and highly respected better be careful what I say because the Handicapper reads these articles, you know. Epic



market. He has done well since ing the Prix Victomiesse Vigi-Stand ran six times as a two er at Longchamp, and he may year-old, winning on his final outing in a mile nursery at Redear. He's not badly handieapped and, while he's no star. a mile and a quarter. Fame Again is a five-year-old sprinter who was very badly handicapped last year. However, she is now on a reasonable mark. She is best at six to seven furlongs, is suited by a bit of cut and needs to be held un. ALEC STEWART

Gharib ran only once last year, finishing fifth to Happy Valentine in a seven furlongs maiden at Yarmouth. He is in good shape and will be ready to run by mid-April. He will start in a maiden and his trip is going to be 10 furlangs. Shilling is a cheaply-bought filly who had a problem last year which prevented her from running. That has now been rectified. She will also stay 10 furlongs but I shall start her off over a mile."

MICHAEL STOUTE Great Child is a good tough sort with plenty of ability who has really come to himself. He was big and undeveloped last year but still managed to get in the frame a couple of times. He is the sort who will thrive on a lot of racing this year, he will be ready to run by April and will want distances in excess of a mile. Desert Story is a genuine colt who ran some good races last year, finishing second in the Royal Lodge and winning the Horris Hill. I'm training him for the 2.(RR) Guineas and he'll run in one of the trials. It's hard to know if he'll stay further than a mile. He's by a sprinter. Green Desert, out of Alivsa, who stayed a mile and a half."

McCoy

out for

10 days

Tony McCoy will be out of ac-

tion for 10 days after being

knocked out when his mount

crashed through a wing at Uttoxeter vesterday. Strong Tel ducked out at the first hurdle. taking Eugene Husband, on

Charley Lambert, with him.

feet, but McCov was still pros-

around again on the second circuit and were waved around the

hurdle. Unhurt, he soon re-

RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: Vision Of Freedom

(Ludlow 3.00) NB: Full Of Bounce

(Exeter 2.50)

gained consciousness but Dr

Husband was quickly on his

2.10 Sprig Muslin 2.40 Greaving 3.10 No Fiddling 4.10 Apache Park 4.40 Bollinger 5.10 Stormyfalrweather 3.40 Harristown Lady GOING: Good to Firm. Right-hand, undulating circuls. Run-in of 14thyd. Course is on the A5, south-east of town. Bus service from Northempton railway station. ADMISSEON: Members 512; Tationalis 58; Course 54 (Gar 52). CAR PARK: Pres.

Extract Property:

Iterating Trainers with Burnners: O Brewen — 33 winners from 119 tunners gives a success ratio of 19.3% and a loss to a £1 level stake of £10.18; K Balley — 11 winners, 50 runners, 20.4%, -£7.34; J Gifford — 10 winners, 62 runners, 16.1%, -£17.77; C Brookle — 7 winners, 35 runners, 20.1%, -£12.59.

Iterating Jockets: Martin Brewen — 22 winners, 100 rides, 22%, +£4.81; A Magaire — 21 winners, 82 rides, 75.6%, -£0.63; R Dunwoody — 15 winners, 70 rides, 21.4%, -£6.0; J Coboure — 11 winners, 63 rides, 15.9%, -£6.6; 6.

BLUNNERSD FIRST THEE: Royal Hand (watered, 2.10), Web Of Steel (2.10); No Fidding (viscored, 3.10); Corrientate (viscored, 2.10), was a Herelord on Saturday.

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: Handing Grove (2.10) was a Herelord on Saturday.

LONG-DISTANCE EXPINERS: Dissolve (-10) has been sent 200 miles by N Lampard from Kingstradge, Devon.

2	2.10	GRAFTON AMATEUR RIDERS SELLING I £2,375 added 2m Penalty Value £1,82	FURDLE (CLASS G) S
1		HALPAN TARK (LAG (D) (H Mannes) K Mannes ? 12 3	
2		RANSONIC CROWE (4) U It Forces) P Murphy 7 12 3	
3	.05PU-0	PAULA'S BOY (27) (D F Rassett) D Brossett 7 11 11	
4	21101	ROYAL HAND (34) (R J Amson) R Amson 7 11 11	
5	-O	TEOROMA (7) (Basil White) / Jeniors 7 11 11	
6	PPPO	WEB OF STEEL (\$3) (J C Hickman) C Hernsley ? 11 11	
ž	000-	CURRY MENSTRAL (365) U J Ryani J Long 7 11 6	
8	04-000P	DERRYBELLE (35) (Mass B W Palmer) D Wisems 6 11 6	
9	9-00	RAKAPOSHI BAP (SE) (TWH Darcet C Jones 7 11 6	
10	13-023	SPRIC MISCAN (28) (O Gandolio) D Gandolio 5 11 8	Y (6) Limes (5) Y
11	040205	BOY ELAKENEY (25) (Max 5 Small) Max 5 Smith 4 11 3	
		14 declared	• • •

— 11. declared —

BETTERG: 9-4 Boy Sintensoy, 5-2 Hanging Grove, 11-4 Sprig Messiin, 6-1 Halitane Tare, 20-1 Paule's
Boy, 25-3 Teoropea, 33-1 others:
1998: Zermrah 7 12 3 Mr D Dreferator 2-1 (W Texasor-Davest 30 ren

1998: Zemesh 7 12 3 bit D Immonser 2.1 (if Twister-Daves) 30 ran FORM GUIDE

BOY BLAKGENEY would have besten Someouther at Utouster in December but for being hampered by a failer at the last, eventually fasing by a neck to overhaul the winner. He struggled when tried in a handleap for the first time at Casterick, but there was more to the about his recent fittor of 19 to Sousse in a decemb Donesters seller and his should be good enough getting weight from these male. Hanging Grove approclased the drop into selling company at hiereford on Saturday, beating odds-on Proud Image three and a half lengths. This race is no better and he must have every chance of a follow-up success despite carrying an eura 6to. Halfman Tarm is the other penalised numer. He is monosistent but would have every chance on his best form, such as when a close second to Meliow Master at Huntingson the time before last. Sprig Manilin is the only other with a realistic chance. Half sister to stablemate Trying Again, she won a temper on heavy ground here last send thereoffs from Mid Day Chaese but could finish only a well-beaten third to Rare Spread at Folkestone (2m6f) on her hunting debut in a nouse deamer (Teoroma 20 lengths behand). This is the first time she has encountered fast ground. Selections 90Y BLAKENEY

2.40 ALEX LAWRIE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £4,950 added 2m 110yds Penaity Value £3,465 | SD-FIFF | GROUNDE (46) NAST | Stone) | GENUS 11 9 | R Dammody | CASS 12 | REST BRUCE (18) NA IN HEADING | SENSOR 8 11 9 | D College | D

2 GP-DG4 SERGET CON (2 of them) 7 of these of 12 of them) 7 of these of 12 of them) 7 of the 13 of them) 7 of the 13 of them) 7 of them 9 of the 13 of them 9 of the 13 of them 9 of the 14 of them 9 of them 9 of the 14 of them 9 of them 9 of the 14 of them 9 of them 3.10 BAKELS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £2,945

FORM GUIDE

Well-handcapped NO FIDOLING was sent off favoures at Market Rasen after an encouraging return at Warwick but could finish only such to Sessiver in first-time britisers, albeit beaten under 10 lengths. No Fidoling is med in a visor now and should be suited by this stiffer course. Dawid Bridgester again takes the ride. The Toleraech may prove the biggest danger despite carrying a halfly 1.1st 1.1lb. Successful at Newbury last March, he has run well most starts this season, lest time in fourth to Lord McMurrough back at Newbury. Wasel Street has landed two of his four races this year but disappointed at Wetherby in January when putted up in Nick The Beak's race. The Tolesaech firsting that, this wars have at been with cut underfoot, which he is unitially to get today. After an encouraging first run in a handlasp hundle, Bob's Ploy went off favourite for Sheriffmun's Lelectes in socker to was talled of in severith of eight. He is 4th out of the handcap today. This Nextite Danger is 5th wrong 3.40 J.J.IAN BELFRAGE MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,300 added 3m 1f Penalty Value £4,435

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Fost Thoughts 9st 11st, Respect Rock 9st 7ts.
BETTING: 11-4 Fest Thoughts, Handistown Ledy, 7-2 Doort Light Up, Stretch Royal, 14 Ren
1998: Males Me Goosey 8 10 4 L Henrey 7-2 (Mrs.) Models 7 ton
FORM GUIDE

to suggest he is ready to strike for the first time since. The JO-year-old was staying on at the death when three lengths second to Mr inveder over three and a haif miles at Whitdoor list time. He is 3th out of the handicap but should go well under 10st. Stratts Royal is at the other end of the handicap but may pose the biggest threat. The 11-year-old missed all list season having improved rapidly through 1994-95 to win six times. He was well beaten behind Act The Wing on his return at Newcastle recently, but has been let down to a good mark and is sure to stop fitter. Harristowe, Lady ren her best race of the season when second to Credon at Fortisvell recently and has every chance on that form. Doort Light Up won first time out here at about this time lest year, so lack of a recent run should not be a problem, but Reapers Rock is 21th out of the handicap. Selection: FAST THOUGHTS

Z	.10	HARTWELL LAND ROVER NOVICE HANDICA (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m Penalty Value £3	PHURDLE
-			
L	06P1	APACHE PARK (USA) (36) (D) (T R Peason) D Burchel 4 11 10	D J Burchel
•	300F84	FERRERS (B) U.L. Burth Mis P Sty 6 11 7	
ı	4235	FAIRELAINE (37) 65F) (Marryn Booth) K Bailey 5 11 0	C O'Dwyer
	05-0124	DISSOLVE (9) (Western Staterts Ltd) R Lampard 5 10 13	_Mr L Baker (7)
,	523232	MCR POPPLETON (18) ONIS Card Newman) R Brotherton 8 10 8	
,		POSITIVO (93) IL Gilberti Mess C Carote 6 10 8	
•	OUNAUF	ROMANY GLUES (49) (Harry Sibley) C Brooks B 10 2	D Gallesbe
ı	000-004	MALLERS GOLDENGERL (S) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 6 10 1	R Wildrages (7)
		BALLY WONDER (12) (Mrs E H Heath) Mrs E Heath 5 10 0	
D		THE BIZZO (16) (J Paniett J Paniett 6 10 0	
_		- 10 declared -	
_			

Minimum weight: 10st. True handkup weight: The Bizzo 9st. BETTRIE: 7-2 Ferrent, 9-2 Februishe, 5-1 Appete Perk, Dissolve, englet, 10-1 Poesitive, 14-1 Romany Blues, 25-1 Others 1998: Shertiste Fox 9 10 11 M A Fingerald 9-1 IN Hogg! 15 ran

1996: Skerdek Fox 9 10 11 M A Finghted 9-1 IK forget 15 in PORM GUIDE

FERRERS, an excellent thant to Red Biszer here in December, has given encouragement in his last three runs and looks ready to add to last season's Sedgefield bumper with. He would have been second to My Cheely Man here last morth but for falling at the last, was far from disglaced in such to the ill-based Gods Squad at Wetherby afterwards and was beaten only about two lengths in fourth to Robran at Sedgefield last week. Mir Popplation had been absent smoe finishing third to Rouestra at Weards. In November before going down eight lengths to The Brewmaster at Newbury this month. He was 9th out of the handloap then and goes off a 4th lower mark now, but his samp of placed efforts suggest a longer tip is needed. Apacide Park showed improved from in first-arms binkers to land a claiming hardle at Leicaster last month but may find the handloapper has taken his measure, while two defeats since his Taunton success suggest the same is true of Dissolve. Fairness

,	(CLASS H) £2,000 added 2m 6f Penalty Value £1,606
	1 41FF-45 HICKELTON LAD (11) (Miss B W Patriet) D Williams 13 12 4
	2 43/04-4 BOLLINGER (18) [Mis J T 6/8001] Mis J Galord 11 12 0
	3 US-000F CHARLES DELIGHT (26) (Artean Partnership) Mrs C Hicks 9 12 0Mr A Sansome (5)
	4 FUPPUP STAR DATS (20) (Hayden Philips) Mis R Lampard 11 12 0
ĸ	- 4 declared -
۲	BETTRIC: 4-9 Bothgar, 11-4 Hickelton Lnd, 12-1 Star Onts, 14-1 Charles Delight
3	1996; Call Home 8 11 7 Mr T Hills 11-4 (Mass S Edwards) 5 ran
n	

2.20 Tales Of Hearsay 2.50 Purbeck Ramble 3.20 Maid Equal 3.50 FINE HARVEST (nap) 4.2 Miles More Fun 4.50 Cool Gunner (nb) GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places).

Right-hand, undulating course, Stiff test of stamina,
Course is 5m SW of Exeter on A38. ADMISSION: Grandstat
& Paddock \$10; Silver Ring \$5 (under-1 its free). CAR PARK: Fre

Seven Crowns (visored, 2.20). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None

2.20 ROBERT WEBS TRAVEL NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,375 added 2m 2f ord 5 11 2 - 11 declared -BETTENC: 1-2 Fleet Codet, 8-1 Tales Of Hearsay, 7-1 Rose Of Glenn, 10-1 Prove The Point, 11-1 Across The Bow, 16 Prove The Point, 20 others

2.50 AXWORTHYS NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 7f 110yds (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 7f 110yds

OEOI PILL DE BOUNCE (13) R Hodges 6 11 13 ... T Dancombe (2)

APO3P PILL ATELE (23) R Alwer 6 11 4 ... Reliation

5,36-212 MOZERO (9) M Pipe 10 11 3 ... A P MacCoy

5,036-212 MOZERO (9) M Pipe 10 11 3 ... T Janks

410-36° MENDEP PRINCE (40) P Hoths 7 11 1 ... G Torman

6423-13 TRUST DEED (13) S Vingen 9 10 7 0 Upton B

0697950 VOLLEYBALL (32) P Hoths 7 10 7 0 Upton B

0697950 VOLLEYBALL (32) P Hoths 7 10 3 ... T J Memphy

563324 WINNOW (50) A Turrel 7 10 2 C Ree

48-6574 DIMUR (37) P Rothod 7 10 2 S Burrough SPECHA DUNUM (ST) PHODOOT 7 10 2 5 Berroops

SSA-5U RAYER GAAA (ST) PHODOOT 7 10 2 ... PHORey
PPUPP KINGS COUNTER (20) S Mellor 8 10 0 ... N Mann
FUGUZO CARDINAL GAYLE (13) R Ainer 7 10 0 ... JR Konnessell

OFFICIAL SECTION RESERVED (13) G Backing 6 10 0 ... B Found

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OFFICIAL SECTION RESERVED (13) G BACKING (13) G BACKING (14) G B = 15 declared -Min: 10st. Cardinal Gayle Set 13th. Charlie Bee St 13th, Purback Rampler Set 11th.

SETTING: 7-2 Mendip Prince, 9-2 Claymore Ltd, 6-1 Mozeno, 6-1 Trust Deed, 13-2 Fell Of Bounce, 8-1 Super Ritchart, Winnow, 12-1 others

JOHNSTON lipse was unbeaten	
	st year, includ- Stoute: Developing Child
-	200 AXWORTHYS COMPUTERS HANDICAR
	HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 3m 2
••	1 130'111 MAID EQUAL (34) (C) M Pipe 6 11 10
	2 11.435.4 DOCTOR GREEN (FR) (1.1) (C) M Pipe 4 11.5. A P McCoy 1 3 52404F NENDAL CAVALUER (1.2) G Balding 7 11.4
er	4 5020P-5 SAME DEFFERENCE (239) G McCourt 9 10 13
20	5 195-209 SECRET BID (12) R Alber 7 10 12
	5 195-209 SECRET BID (12) R Aine 7 10 12
_	7 111230 SNOW BOARD (初 化) Mrs M Jones 8 10 9
	8 000301 57 WallEr® (D) R Buckler 11 10 9 ந்த B Powel
	9 654300 DEFENNS BREDGE (20) Mrs S Johnson 7 10 O.Mr R Thornton (5)
and	10 43-5025 APACHEE FLOWER (12) H Howe 7 10 0G Tormer
ec.	- 10 declared -
	Minimum: 10st. True weignes: Derring Bridge 9st 12th, Apachee Flower 9st 3th
	BETTING: 9-4 Maid Equal, 9-2 Doctor Green, 11-2 Enteteel, 6-1 Nenda
	Cavaller, 7-1 Snow Board, 10-1 Secret Bid, St Ville, 20-1 others
n,	3.50 HEAVITREE BREWERY CUP HANDICAF
	CHASE (CLASS C) E7,000 added 2m 21
	1 122431 THUMBS UP (27) G MoCourt 11 11 11
PLETS	2 1.1-112 FINE HARVEST (R1) / Spearing 11 11 6
_	3 U1113-2 POLDEN PRIDE (284) (D) G Balons, 9 10 11 A P McCo
_	4 P.P.662 ALPINE SONG (12) Mess V Stephens 12 10 0. Mess V Stephens
IG	- 4 declared -
-	Minutum weaths: 10st. The hardists weight: Aloine Sone To: 10o

MINIMUM weight: 10st, The hardicar weight: Aprile Song 15: 1750 BETTRIB: 7-4 Thumbs Up, Fine Harvest, 9-4 Polden Pride, 25-1 Alpine Song 4.20 ROBERT WEBS TRAVEL HUNTER CHASE 8 SEPP2: ROUGHS PIEC D23 Ms R Herdeson 16 12 3 Ms R Herdeson (7)
9 (1759) ROUGHS PIEC D23 Ms R Herdeson (1) 12 3 Ms R Herdeson (1)
10 5 MORE MARKES (728) Ms 18 Reg 12 2 2 3 Ms I Deceptor (7)
11 3UG-50-6 QUALITAR MEMORY (636) C Tozard 8 12 3 Ms I Bezard (7)
12 PINAPPA SIMER AGE (355) Ms C Da; 11 12 3 Ms P Cooper (7)
13 657-34 SIRSSAT (21) Ms I Bezary 13 12 3 Ms P Bezary (7)
14 TROUGHS MS R Purdery 7 12 3 Ms ST States (7)
15 MRLES MORE RUN E RESTS 8 11 12 Ms I Liefford (7)

- 15 declared BETTING: 11-4 The Matakarusa, 5-1 Rosty Bratge, 11-2 Qualitair Memo-ry, 8-1 Tuotops, 9-1 Full Alirt, Miles More Fus. 10-1 Sirisat, 14-1 others 4.50 ROBERT WEBB TRAVEL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 2f | DILE (CLASS E) 22,925 BODGO 271 27 | Holiston Coll. SUNNER (12) (CD) J Nrg 7 11 10 ______ C Maude 04.122 | HAMDSON (21) (EP) 8 P Norman 5 11 8 ______ D Safter (5) 140/23 BEISTONOM BARD (40) (D) D Gardotto 7 11 8.0 Forts (8 Ros Pos S BOSINTO SPAN (81) (7 R BONG 8 10) 12 _____ R FORTS 2-2-255 COMMANCHE CREEK (228) Miss J du Plesss 7 10 12 _____

Andy Toman, the course doctor. signed off the jockey for a mandatory 10 days because he had been knocked out for up to three minutes. The fall came five days after Gold Cup victory on Mr Mulligan rounded off a magnificent Cheltenham for McCoy. Shirley Heights, winner of the 1978 Derby, has been put down at the age of 22.

LUDLOW

HYPERION 2.00 Re Rol 2.30 Howgill 3.00 Vision Of Freedom 3.30 Blue Cheek 4.00 Crandon Boulevard 4.30 Mr Snaggle 5.00 Teal Bay

GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places).

Right-hand course, Chase course has slorp hends.

Course is NW of town off A49. Ludlow station 2m. ADMIS-STON: Club 514: Tagersulis 59: Course 56. CAR PARK: Prec.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Majic Belle (3.30); Riverbank Red VISIONE, 1301.
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Buth's Gamble (200) has been with

NG miles by Mrs L Jewell from Sution Valence, Kent. 2.00 SEIFTON CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) 19 52,500 added 2m

0-F0030 DR DAME ISS) P Creatures 6 11.8 ______ A Thornton 132950 RE ROL (41) (D) W C M Turner 5 11.4 _____ N Willmington (7) 12106P CHEF MOUSE (30) Mesh H moght 4 11.3 ._____ J F Titley 3-00200 NESHT BOAT (42) W Cay 6 11.2 _____ Cmy Lenks (3) 0-0056P AMARCE (87) (D) S Mesh 8 11.1 ______ Chris Webb (5) (455-P0) NINGS VESION (14) W Lenks 5 11.0 _____ D Winks 400210 RUTH'S GAMBLE (5) (D) (BF) Mrs. J Sevel 9 10 122 Casticky V CANCEN WINKS WINKS (M. 10 Perior 5 11.0 _____ D Reported (7) 0-700200 MINIS WINKS (M. 10 Perior 5 10 12) D Reported (7)

230 BANKS'S BUSINESS BUILDER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 3m - 6 declared -

Minimum weeger 10st. True weights: Part Lin 9st 13b. Foxfrore 9st 7b. BETTRIC: 9-4 Too Sharp, 3-1 Hongill, 7-2 Scotool, 4-1 Trianpel, 8-1 Fox-

3.00 RACING CHANNEL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m

3.30 MAGNUS-ALLCROFT TROPHY HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 2m 4f

- 19 declared BETTING: 2-1 Minelia Express, 4-1 Tuffnet George, 10-1 Ramstar, Hennerwood Cal., 12-1 Familiar Friend, Blae Clasek, 14-1 others HANDLE (CLASS & TENANCES NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,500 4Y0 2m

51 MES'S LEMORY 239 (DA Street 11 0.0 ______ T fley O ATRICAN SUN (12) M Charmen 10 12 _____ R Supple 3 33 CRANDON BOLLEVARD (12) MS J Provan 10 12 ____ R Supple 4 30 GREEN SUPPRE (USA) (3) C Marcos 10 12 ____ R Janason 5 8003 MOBLE COLOURS (18) S Grafters 10 11 ____ D Walsh 6 06 WHITE PLANS (13) M Poe 10 12 ____ D Walsh 7 436 DOWN THE YARD (12) M Crepmen 10 7 _____ W Warshington 8 572 SULAWESI (27) N Vestor Daves 10 7 _____ C Lienethyn - 8 declared - BETINE: 2-1 Submed 5-2 Crandon Bondevard, 5-1 Meg's Memory, Whate Pishe, 10-1 Noble Colours, 12-1 Down The Vard, 20-1 others

5.00 LUDLOW STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m HANDE (CLASS IT) 2___SOURCE 2II

HOMBE DE PER (11) N BRUY 5 11 4 ________ C. Sendder (7)

OU- SAMPVILLE LAD SOV Mr. D Thomas 5 11 2 ______ S Wyone

NESS HEAVEN A BRUY 5 10 15 _______ S Wyone

NESS HEAVEN A BRUY 5 10 13 ______ A Thomaton

TEAL BAY S Brown as 5 10 13 ______ A Thomaton

TEAL BAY S Brown as 5 10 13 ______ A Thomaton

COMMANCE CLP A Loring 4 10 10 _____ D Walsh

DEMANDER CLP A LORING 5 10 10 _____ D Walsh

DEMANDER CLP A LORING 5 10 10 _____ D Walsh

Five charged in Hong Kong

The first charges have been laid following Hong Kong's crackdown on horse race-fixing and illegal gambling which resulted in 37 arrests, writes Stephen Vines from Hong Kong.

Yesterday five businessmen. two of whom are Malaysian nationals, were charged with illegal bookmaking. It is likely that others will be charged, however the authorities appear to be first tackling the more straightforward issue of illegal gam-bling. The Hong Kong Jockey Club runs the only legal gambling operation in the colony.

Most of those arrested have heen released on bail. They include trainers believed to control up to 80 horses, and club officials responsible for the broadcasting of racing. Lawrence Wong, the Jockey

Club's chief executive, has broken his silence on the scandal which was made public on Sunday. He told a radio station: The Jockey Club has done everything it can to maintain the integrity of racing. I think public confidence in the integrity of racing will be maintained."



FONTWELL 2.00: 1. RED BRANCH (7.) Marphy 5-6 (a): 2. Speedy Snaps Senge 5-1: 3. Clais's (b): 11: 2. 6 pag. 12: 4. U King, Sausdon). Toda: 51: 40: 51: 20: 51: 70. Dual Forecast: 63: 20 Computer Straight Forecast: 54: 70. 3: 30: 1. STROMS PALADER 1: Aspell 100-30: 2. March Senet 15-R fore: 3. Straight Senet 15-R for 2.50.1. STROMS PALADAN 1. ASPET 200-30: 2. Neat Peat 15-8 lev. 3. Provision And Blace 3.1. 6 test. 1%, 7. 1 Gritori, Faccon, Tode: £3 50: £1.70, £1.40, Dr. £2.40, CSF: £8.57

3.00: I. THE WHOLE HOS A ROSKA! 7-4; 2. Solution Barron cuerts fac; 3. Cruisse Commit 9:2-4 ran. 3... 65- (K Bausy, Upper Intercounts, Tokes 52:70. Dr. 51.90. CSF: 53.79.

3.30: 2 SMUGGLER'S POINT SOCIE 3.30: 7. SMUGGLER'S POINT (SCIPE Mitchell 5-1: 7. Visions Cleret 7-2; for 3. Serblert 7-1. 8 sm. 7-2; for Visions Isk cracks up. 5; fd. U Briggs, Lumonn. Total: 63-10. 12-10. 51-50. 51-70. Df. 19-50. CSF, 122-0. TRUST 3109-18.
4.00: 1. Briggson for 0.5 process 11-6. 119 50 CSF. [21.05. IMMST 51/58.78.
4.00: 1. SUSMAN Rev 9.5 Jones 11.4.
2. Ica Cac Pep 17.1: 3. Speller Jabbes
2.1 (br. 7 Pem. 10. 9. IX R Pearch. Carmarger) Total CS.5.0. 51.50. \$3.00. \$5:
[10.60 CSF. \$22.60. \$4. Pearcy Rev.]

RACING RESULTS 4.30: 1. CLARRESWAN (Richard Guest) 7-4 for; 2. Decide Yourself 9-2; 3. Topunge 7-1. 7 fain. Inf. 6. (M Tompliffe), Tota: 12.20: £1.50. £3.10, DF; £4.20. CSF; 19.85, Placepot: £38.40, Quedpot: £36.00. Place 8: £55.84. Place 6: £47.16.

SEDGEFIELD

SEDGEFIELD

2.10: 1 STYLISH INTERVAL (R Supple)
5:: 2 Savelle 6:: 3. INTERVAL (R Supple)
5:: 2 Savelle 6:: 3. INTERVAL (R Supple)
13:36 8av. 11:an. 1. 3. (N Waggon), Tote: £5.60; £2.00. £1.40, £1.20. DF: £27.20. CSF: £29:70. Inter £1.80, NF Posted Abreal 2.40; 1. MISS COLETTE (M Foster) 9:1; 2 Cool Weather 6:: 1; 3. Repth 6:: 1. The TOASTER (£ Calagiran) 9: 1. Tote: £11.50; £18.00. £7.20. DF: £71.80, CSF: £53.18. 3.10:: 1. THE TOASTER (£ Calagiran) 9: 2; 2. Cross Cestmon 4-5 fav; 2. Tutin Rails 94. 3 man. 2: 12. (Miss M Milligan). Tote: £5.90. DF: £7.50; £7.50; £7.52, Sally (Dec (11) withdrawn not under orders, Rule 4 supples to all bets, deduct 5p in the £ 3.40:: 1. RVINGRY UNISHION (A Dobban) 2: 1 tax; 2. Most Rich 14: 1; 3. Dewas Lad 4: 1. 7 min. 25/1, 4. (I) Hormsont, Potes £2.20; £1.50, £1.80. CSF: £57.60. Tote: £2.50; £1.80. CSF: £57.60. Tote: £2.50; £1.80. E5.50. CSF: £57.60. Tote: £2.50; £1.80. E5.50. CSF: £57.60. Tote: £2.50; £1.80. E5.50. E5.50

4.10: 1. HARFDECENT (P Naon) 5-4 for; 2. King Fly 33-1; 3. Emi 9-2. 11 man. ½, 23. (Mes M Review). Tota: £2.20; £1.10. £3.30; £1.60. DP: £29.20. CSF £47.18. Tro: £2.50. NR. Moke Stan. 4.40: 1. @LENUGE (N Bentley) 2-1 fax; 2. Frup Satellite 3-1; 3. Our Kris 9-2. 5 ma. 2/4. 2/4. Morent. Tota: £2.00;

ran. 21/5, 27. (G Moore), Tote: £2.00; £1.30, £2.10. DF: £5.40. CSF: £7.57. NR:

3.20: 1. SMITH TOO (R Favert) 10-11 fav; 2. Benidened 3-1; 3. Lensdowne 5-2. 4 rps. 2½, 3½. (Mrs.) Priman). Tobe: £1.70. DF: £2.10. CSF: £3.73. NR: Whet's Your Stoy. 3.50: 1. QUITE A MAN (C Moude) 10-1; 2. Heathyards Boy 7-1; 3. Another Comedy 12-1 10 ran, 3-1 fev After The Fox (refl. 5, 22, (S Brookshow, Ufringen), Total: 15.30; F. 470, £1.60, £1.90. DF: £46.90. CSF: £69.33. Traces: £771.88. Tric: £155.60. NRs: Boots N AL Mandyeroundusiness. 4.20: 1. KB DRUMBMY CASTLE IF Learly! 20-1; 2. Country Minstre! 16-1: 3. Galway Boss 5-1. 14 mm. 4-1 few Barton Scamp. Vs. Vs. U FitzGerald, Matton), Totes: £20.00; £4.70, £6.20, £2.40, DF: £268.60, CSF: £271.93, Tricast: £1,665.42, Tric: £623.80.

ver Thyrne 7-4 fer; 3. Man Of The Match 16-1, 12 ran, rk, 21. (Mass H Knaft, Wan-tage), Totac 28.00; £2.50, £1.50, £2.60, DF: £13.20, CSF: £22.89, Tro: £37.60, NRs; Morheus & Sous To Speak. Jackgot: not won (pool of £22,291.98 car-ned forward to Exeter route). Placepot: £1.537.60 (geodpot: £380.80. Place 8: £665.77, Place &; £185.04.

NR: Roy(304. 4.60: 1. DICTUM Ü CURDIYI 9-1; 2, 5#-

United well prepared to stand their ground

Football

GLENN MOORE reports from Oporto

Manchester United's journey vesterday morning from a damp and overcast Ringway Airport to the sunshine of Oporto seemed emblematic of the club's season. Out of the darkness of those infamous defeats. Newcastle and Southampton.

With the domestic campaign bubbling nicely, United are here to complete a job all but finished at Old Trafford a fortnight ago. The catchphrase is beware complacency but few expect the 4-0 first-leg lead to be overturned. A semi-final with Borussia Dortmund or Auxerre is being contemplated.

Not that United, who will have two spies in Auxerre

previously had to defend a 4-0 lead, Gary Pallister paled. His voice dropped to the same low tone Alian Border always used when discussing Headingley 1981. "I've seen some terrible things in cricket," Border would say, when faced with apparently certain victory.

Pallister's nemesis was in Barcelona two seasons ago. United were humbled 4-0 and Pallister recalled: "We took a lot

sition but I know if you are not professional the roof can cave in. The Nou Camp was not so ong ago, we are all aware of that. No one at Old Trafford needs reminding of that night. Coming back from Barcelona we felt embarrassed - Porto would have been the same after Old Trafford."

United are expecting an ear-assault from Porto, whose pride was further dented by a home defeat to Sporting Lisbon

at the weekend. After being unbeaten all season, they have now lost three and won one of their last five matches. Antonio Oliveira, Porto's coach, has refused to speak to either the local or foreign press or allow them into his training sessions. This reflects the mounting pressure on his position - another humiliation tonight and he could be sacked, even though Porto still lead the Portuguese

League by seven points.

Ferguson is more concerned

one of several players could replace Giggs, while Roy Keane would come in for Cole with United reverting to four across the middle. The injuries mean

with his players' welfare. Ryan Giggs (hamstring), Gary Neville (ankle) and Andy Cole (thigh) are all doubtful, with Cole and Giggs unlikely to start. Any

he is unlikely to rest Eric Cantona, the most volatile of seven players on a yellow card. United are yet to have a play-

er suspended, Porto have three

out tonight: Sergio Conceicão, Rui Barros and Artur.

Portuguese police are expecting up to 10,000 United fans
only 6,400 of them in the official party. So far United supporters have been connective. porters have been generally well-behaved in Europe. As long as they continue to be so, United's season should still be glowing with promise tomorrow.

has appeared the beckoning tonight, are taking Porto for of stick. Ajax coming to terms with end of an era

David Winner on the rise and falling apart of the famous team that brought silverware to Amsterdam but soon sought new horizons

s Ajax go into the away leg of their European Cup semi-final gainst Atletico Madrid in Spain tonight, they know an era may be coming to an end. Two years ago their brilliant young side won the Cup - and went on to become world champions - and last May they reached the final. Now, having scraped into the knockout stage of the competition. Ajax face ten resembled a desert. elimination at its first hurdle.

Having being held to a 1-1 draw in Dutch side are unlikely to reach the semi-finals and are only too aware that their chances of returning to the competition next season are slim indeed. They lie fourth in the Dutch League - to points behind the leaders, PSV Eindhoven.

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For Ajax, this season's problems have been a combination of the old and new. The familiar one has been the continuing loss of key players. Last summer saw the departure of Edgar Davids, Finidi George, Michael Reiziger and Nwankwo Kanu. These players have not been properly replaced, and the side has been left un-

On the left of midfield, the elegant Richard Witschge is no substitute for the driving power of Davids. On the right wing, the new man. Tijani Bahangida, has more pace than his fellow Nigerian. George, but lacks his vision and technique, so that attacks have a tendency to peter out.

Then there have been the injuries. Most of the team are internationals, so players who were already exhausted by last season's campaign played in Euro 96 and began this season with barely a fortnight's rest.

As a result, the team has been upset by persistent injuries to key men. Patrick Kluivert, Jari Litmanen, Danny Blind, Frank de Boer and Witschge have all missed large parts of the season and Louis van Gaal. Ajax's respected coach, has been forced to use 28 players in the league campaign, and has rarely been able to field a full-

Marcello Lippi, the Juventus

couch, has every reason to be

confident going into today's

European Cup quarter-final

second leg against Rosenborg of

have a five-point lead in Serie.4

and show no signs of being

caught. In Rosenborg, they

have on paper the weakest op-

ponents in the last eight and

they have the advantage of an

Rosenborg sent Milan out of

this year's competition at the

Thampions' League stage, but

Juventus have yet to concede a

goal at the Delle Alpi stadium

in this year's campaign. They

have not been beaten there in

the cup since 1995 when they

lost 2-1 to Borussia Dortmund.

real Juventus, the side that

plays with the right concentra-

tion, determination and con-

viction," Lippi said. "If any of

Bobby Robson, the Barcelona

coach, angrily left a news con-

ference yesterday after telling

reporters that he alone was re-

sponsible for picking the team.

I'm angry with you," said Rob-

son as he walked out.

ing who should play.

"lt's a lie, it's a disgrace, and

The former England man-

ager was responding to reports

that squad members and the

club president. Jose Luis

Nuñez, were involved in choos-

the president, or the doctor, it's

nobody but me." Robson said

in English, before repeating

himself in Spanish for the

benefit of the assembled jour-

It's not the players, it's not

For this game, we need the

but still won the trophy.

away goal from the 1-1 first-leg

draw in Trondheim.

Domestically, the holders

The injury problems have been exacerbated by the controversy surrounding the Arena, their futuristic new 50.000-seat stadium where, because of technical problems, the pitch has had to be relaid five times in eight months. Ajax's normally fluent passing game requires a perfect surface, but the Arena pitch has of-

Ajax's problems seem certain to get worse rather than better in the short Amsterdam a fortnight ago, the term. The Bosman ruling means that not only do Ajax not get paid for some of the players they have nurtured since childhood, they now find Italian scouts haunting their vouth team (Udinese recently signed a 19-yearold who had played only one game for the first team).

The loss of talent will continue this summer, starting with the brilliant but abrasive Van Gaal. No one knows where he will be next season, though. the feeling in the Netherlands being that it is now unlikely to be Barcelona, where the treatment of Bobby Rob-

son is said to have appalled him. Milan have already signed the brilliant Kluivert, who is still only 20, and the defender Winston Bogarde for next season - leaving Ajax without a penny, as happened with Davids, because the players' contracts



Nwankwo Kanu (left) and Finidi George celebrate European Cup success for Ajax in 1995

have expired. Transfer speculation swirls around the De Boer twins, Frank and Ronald, and the winger Marc Overmars, who is still not back to his best after a long injury. If Overmars and the brothers do go, it would leave Ajax with just three members of the team which won the European Cup in 1995: the sweeper and captain Danny Blind, the Finnish

midfielder Jari Litmanen, and the

goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar. The task of returning the team to championship winners will fall to Morten Olsen, a great player for Denmark in the 1980s but not yet a successful coach. Despite all their problems, Michael van Praag, the Ajax president, remains optimistic. "Every year one or two big names leave. It is sad, especially for me. But we are used to it. There is absolutely no panic," he said.

Aiax's annual budget is just over £20m, which the club is trying to increase to £100m. It is a lot for the Netherlands, but small by comparison with Europe's giants. "In Southem Europe, clubs can lose millions

of dollars every year and still buy Alax will not get a penny.

want to play in England and per-sistently linked with Arsenal and Manchester United. Louis van Gaaf (coach) 45. Leaving Alax at the end of the season to "spread his wings" 20. Internazionale. Striker sold — but only he knows where he for about £1m in 1996, but career may be over despite recovering well from surgery to by Robson, most people still think

1995 Europie au Cup Head Ajar I (Najert 55) Man die Frist Ho-pel studien. Werte: Ajar Varier Ser, Reiger, Brut, FDa Boe, Sector (Varid, Rijkard, University (Vin-erd, Davids, George, R De Boe, Gregories, Manuel Rossi, Personal, Consecutat, Basfittam: Rossi: Pantied, Costecurta, st, Makini, Donadoni, Albertini, Di Boban, Messaro (Epitic), Straoris.

The Portuguese midfielder

Paulo Sousa and striker Karl-

heinz Riedle, who both missed

Saturday's match with injuries.

should play, but Brazilian de-fender Julio Cesar, still recov-

ering from a knee operation at

Christmas, is not yet ready to re-

Auxerre, who warmed up

for today's game by beating

Cannes 3-1 on Friday, are hop-

ing goalkeeper Lionel Char-

bonnier will be able to play

despite a painful right shoulder.

Charbonnier, defender Franck

Silvestre and midfielder Mous-

sa Saib all missed the match

against Cannes, but should be

players because they get money from I don't know where," Van Praag said.

Van Praag is "anxiously awaiting" Uefa proposals for a new system to limit the Bosman damage by allowing clubs to sign contracts with youthteam players with an option for a further three years. "All clubs could agree on that and it would be better

than nothing."

Meanwhile the club is determined signed contracts last year with Overtil 2004. We are not going to allow them to break their contracts so they are not leaving." Van Praag insisted. up, but we always seem to survive because of our scouting system and the good way we educate our players. If

would not be the end of the world."

"We'll have to be at 200 per cent

from the start, but at the same

time we'll have to be patient and

careful. We know we need

goals, but if we let them score

France have had a team in

the European Cup semi-finals in each of the last four years

and Auxerre, who impressed in

this year's campaign by beat-

ing Ajax, dream of following

the example of Marseilles,

Paris St-Germain, Mouaco and

achieve something exceptional,

and we believe we can make it."

striker Bernard Diomède said

"We all want to go for it, to

it will be all over."

Photograph: Clive Brunskill/Allsport

We don't think we will ever come to the same level as them budgetwise, but we try to narrow the gap. But we have something they do not bave. Our school."

to hang on to its established stars. "We mars until the year 2000 and with the De Boers, at their own request, un-"People always say the team will break we are not in the Champions' League next season it would be a pity, but it

Cotton angers president

Rugby Union

The Rugby Football Union's president, John Richardson, sharply criticised Fran Cotton yesterday after the Lions manager was quoted as saying a small group of RFU members want England to leave the Five Nations' Championship. The RFU itself issued a statement rebutting various claims by Cotton.

Cotton was quoted as saying "unofficial meetings are taking place" about England and France pulling out of the Five Nations and creating a new tournament in which they would be joined by Australia.

New Zealand and South Africa. Richardson said Cotton's reported comments "defy belief and leave us to query his mo-tives. We have never expressed any wish to withdraw from the Five Nations."

Cotton was quoted in the Daily Mail as saying some people, mostly on the RFU executive committee, want England out of the Five Nations. They have got to be stopped. They think England's best interests are served by not being part of the Five Na-tions, that they'd be better served with the southern hemisphere countries." He added: "I will fight this tooth and nail."

Richardson dismissed Cotton's comments. After stressing England's commitment to the tournament, he added: "Indeed, only last September it cost us considerable money to settle with the other countries regarding TV rights in order to stay in. We have always said that

the Five Nations is vital to us." In their statement, the RFU countered claims by Cotton that the RFU's AGM had been misled over several aspects of Sky's television contract. He rejected Cotton's suggestions that the RFU did not have a veto on Sky showing Five Nations games on a pay per view basis and that the RFU did not have control over match scheduling. The timing of other England matches, the RFU said, would be a matter for agreement by all involved parties.

The RFU also said Sky could not, as Cotton suggested, dictate the structure of the domestic rugby. The RFU said: "In return for their investment, BSkyB reasonably wish to be advised and consulted over any changes to the format." A reduction in the size of the First Division, for example, would influence Sky's match coverage.

"BSkyB's ability to influence the decisions of the RFU is no lesser or greater than the BBC has had for many years. The AGM was not misled," the statement concluded.

As they seek to defend the World Cup Sevens in Hong Kong England comain five of the side that took the inaugural World Cup crown at Murrayfield, including Tim Rodber, who has taken over as captain following the withdrawal of Lawrence Dai laglio. England begin their de-fence against Canada and Zimbabwe on Friday.

Wales, weakened by late injuries to Neil Jenkins and Robert Howley, face Namibia and then the formidable Western Samoans. No fewer than seven of the original squad of 10 players were forced to withdraw and the coach, Kevin Bowring, now has a party that includes six uncapped players.



of the Dr Martens League play Clevedon Town solvight, it will be their sixth match in 12 days since Seminar 8 March. Their players are all part times with jobs outside foot-ball...

35, Ajax. Veteran sweeper has been troubled by injury and will decide about retirement in the the Bemabeu. Edgar Davids Frank de Boer 26, Ajax. Defender. Has long con-

Michael Reiziger

Danny Blind

man-style free transfer in 1996.

staying.

been linked with Parma, Sam-

Lippi plans confidence trick

these are missing, then we could

be in for a surprise. But that

Lippi may make only two

changes from the side which

beat Roma 3-0 on Sunday, re-

placing the cup-tied Portuguese

defender Manuel Dimas with

Mark Juliano and recalling Yu-

20slav midfielder Vladimir Ju-

govic in place of Alessio

ricelli is injured, as is Gianluca

Pessotto. Ciro Ferrara had a

touch of flu on Monday, but

seems certain to play. Reserve

strikers Christian Vieri and

Nicola Amoruso, who both

scored against Roma, are in

contention for a place along

Alessandro Del Piero is still in-

jured while the Croat striker

Alen Boksic, with only 10 min-

utes competitive football behind

him in the last two months af-

Newspaper reports had

claimed strikers Hristo Sto-

ichkov and Juan Pizzi had be-

gun warming up without being

told to by Robson when

Barcelona went 3-0 down to

Atletico before their spectacu-

lar 5-4 Spanish Cup win last

carried reports on Monday

which quoted Robson as thank-

ing Nunez for recommending

some changes during the 1-0

the press has steadily deterio-

rated since his arrival at the Noti

Camp. Problems on the field -

Barcelona trail the league lead-

Robson's relationship with

league win over Logrones.

Several Spanish newspapers

week.

ter injury, will start as a substi-tute. "I'm training hard, spect his decision."

The Italian international

with Michele Padovano.

The defender Moreno Tor-

won't happen."

Tacchinardi

bundit happily running his underwear company. 23, Milan, Defender took Bos-

Clarence Seedorf 20. Real Madrid. The "little general" who made his European

debut aged 16, was sold to Sampdoria in 1995 for about £1.5m and is now flourishing at

24. Milan. Thrusting midfielder tract but rumours persist. Has took Bosman-style free transfer 1996. Now has badly broken leg.

particularly in the mornings, but

I'm incredibly tired," Boksic

said. "I don't know why. I think

the best thing would be for me

to start on the bench. I'm curi-

- have been aggravated by Rob-

son's limited knowledge of

Many journalists and sup-

porters are thought to be nos-

talgic for the era of ex-coach

Barcelona last May after eight

seasons in charge. Legal action

by Cruylf against Nunez for

slander began yesterday, with

in a heated press confer-

ence the day after firing the for-

mer World Cup star. Nuñez

accused the Dutchman of ac-

cepting money to support rival

candidates to the club presi-

dency and of favouring his strik-

statements from witnesses con-

nected to the club.

Spanish.

Rosenborg plan to take the

ous to see how it goes."

26, Alax. Vital attacking mid-Now 26, Ajax. Loyal goalkeep- 34. Legendary midfielder retired er with long contract. Will be in 1995. Now occasional TV fielder has been linked with several clubs in Italy but has long contract and is expected to stay unless the team disintegrates

Finidi George 25, Real Betis. Brilliant winge sold in 1996 for about £4.5m. Ronald de Boer

26. Aiax. Midfielder, Like his twin brother, has long contract - but will it hold him? Marc Overmars

fender Winston Bogarde, signed to play for Milan next season. 23, Ajax, Winger, Refuses to answer questions about where he

Atletico aim to break losing streak

Atletico Madrid face their "game of the year" today when they play Aiax in their European Cup quarter-final, second leg. The first

game to Juventus, but their leg in Amsterdam ended 1-1. coach, Nils Arne Eggen, admitted the odds were against his Last year's Atletico did the double in Spain but their hopes side. "We are not going to be of retaining their league title cautious. We are not going to retreat. If we do that, then we and the cup disappeared in have not got a chance," he less than two weeks with three successive defeats in thrilling The Norwegians have no ingames in which they have conjury problems, but striker Harceded 12 goals. Now they are ald Brattbakk was not happy not even sure of securing a place

in next season's Uefa Cup. about the prospect of being relegated to substitute again. They lost to a last-minute goal at Real Betis 10 days ago "I am in good shape. My speed would have been useful and incidents during and after against the Italian defence." the match cost them suspen-Brattbakk said. "But I believe sions to three key players. Sigurd Rushfeldt will be play-

The club's outspoken presiing instead of me. Eggen has dent. Jesus Gil, responded by threatening to boycott the Span-ish Cup. In the event, Gil's probably been unsure what to do, but now seems to have players took a last-minute flight made up his mind. I have to reto Barcelona for their cup tie, cruised into a 3-0 lead but then lost 5-4. Last weekend they Robson angry over press claims crashed 4-1 at home to Valencia.

Antic must wait to see whether the striker Juan Eduardo Esnaider recovers from tonsillitis before naming his team. If he is not, Esnaider's fellow Argentinian, Leonardo Biagini, could play, although Jose Luis Caminero could be moved Johan Cruyff, who left forward to partner Kiko Narvaez.

Patrick Kluivert's suspension Ajax's biggest headache. The young striker had an uninspired game in Amsterdam but he will be sorely missed by the Dutch, who beat Roda JC Kerkrade 3-1 at home on Friday. Their Finnish forward Jari Litmanen has a hip injury but hopes to be fit.

Atletico Madrid (probable): Molina; Dema, Muroc, Solozabal, Juan Lopez, Bejol, Pantic, Simeone, Caminero, Kiko Narraez, Esnalder. Ajax (probable); Van der Sar, Melchiot, Bland, F de Boer, Musampa, Scholten, Limanen, Witschge, Babangida, R de Boer, Overmans. sen, who has two years left on

Dortmund prepared for fight Despite their comfortable 3-1 win in the tirst leg, Borussia Dortmund are not taking anything for granted for their European Cup quarter-final second-leg match in Auxerre

repair a heart defect.

20. Aiax - but only for another

couple of months. The biggest blow of all. World-class striker

who could become a second

Marco van Basten has, like de-

Patrick Kluivert

tonight. The German champions lost 4-1 to ViB Stuttgart in the Bundesliga on Saturday and a similar defeat in France would see Auxerre advance to the last four.

"It's very simple, we must avoid that kind of result." said Matthias Sammer, the Dortmund captain, who missed the first leg with a calf injury. We must not go into the

match thinking we have al-ready done the hardest part," he said. "We will have to fight for 90 minutes because that's what Auxerre will do. They have nothing to lose."

Dortmund will be without the defender Stefan Reuter, who is suspended after being sent off in the first leg for a second bookfit enough to start. The French club, who are playing in the European Cup for the first time, will remember their Uefa Cup semi-final with Dortmund in 1993, in which

on penalties. "It will be tough but it's not impossible." Silvestre said. on Auterre."

they fought back from a twogoal first-leg deficit only to lose

Otherwise, there would be no point in starting the match." Ottmar Hitzfeld, the Dortmund coach, is reasonably confident, however, despite his

side's defeat at the weekend. This is our chance to join Europe's footballing élite." he said. We have to take out our frustration at losing to Stuttgart

Brann restore harmony for Anfield trip £100,000, while Iceland goalexpected to travel with the Dennis Roache, said Rukeeper Kristinsson, who had a

Liverpool's European Cup-Winners Cup opponents, SK Brann, will fly into England today with harmony restored in their camp.

Two of their senior players, midfielder Jan Ove Pedersen and goalkeeper Birkir Kristinsson, have decided not to pursue action against the club after a public outery in Bergen.

They both asked for compensation from Brann, who forgot to re-register them in time for the Cup Winners' Cup game after they had gone on loan during the winter close scason. Norway midfielder Peder-

brief spell with Birmingham, has one year left on his current deal and demanded £60,000.

The pair said the two matches "were the shopping window of the century for Brann's players". They threatened the club with court action on Friday, only a few hours after the quarterfinal second-leg match at Anfield, if the matter was not

solved to their satisfaction. But the players seem to have misjudged public opinion and dropped their claims after a flood of criticism on television and radio as well as in newspapers, in which they were brandhis contract, was claiming ed as "greedy and stupid".

squad to Liverpool today even mours of Jamie negotiating a though they are ineligible. The squad are using Chester

as their base and their coach, Kjell Tennijord, will lead them in a training session at Anfield

Brann's key man is likely to be striker Tore Andre Flo, who is still mulling over a new deal. а усаг.

Jamie Redknapp, mean-while, is not yet ready to thrash out details of another contract at Antield, according to his agent. Roy Evans, the Liver-

new contract are untrue and unfounded."

"There will be no negotiations in the foreseeable future as his existing contract still has two years to run."

Liverpool's main injury worry is Jason McAleer as they hope to build on a 1-1 draw in which would bring him £150,000 Norway two weeks ago and clinch a place in the semi-finals.

The Republic of Ireland wing-back had nine stitches inserred in a head wound during the game at Nottingham Forest on Saturday, but is determined pool manager, had indicated he to play in front of a full-house was willing to start the ball at Antield.

ers Real Madrid by nine points er son. Jordi, over other players.

المكذا من الأصل

Pigott orchestrates a seaside revolution

David Liewellyn reports on the unrest at Sussex which

should come to a head at tonight's annual meeting

Barrow (now in the Pigott

camp). The departures reduced

the committee from nine mem-

Sussex may be beside the sea, meeting to build up the two-but the county's cricket is on the thirds majority which would rocks and a growing number of enable him and his supporters members want major changes at to take over.

players and the feeling that the who left the county after 18 club's administration is not up years at Hove and joined Surto scratch has prompted Tony rey in 1994, said: "I have put my Pigott, the former Sussex head on the block, now it is up bowier, to lead a rebellion to the members. If they want which will seek to clear out long.

cently elected chairman. A motion of no confidence will be put to a special general meeting on 8 April in Hove Town Hall, but prior to that this evening's annual meeting, in the refurbished splendour of the IRA-bombed Grand Hotel, promises to be a lively affair.

The 38-year-old Pigott, who has given up the post of secondteam coach at Surrey in an at-, tempt to salvage the club where his seam bowling accounted for 621 first-class wickets, is confident that he can win enough support before the special

The club's constitution pro-The exodus of half a dozen hibits a vote tonight, but Pigott, this strongly enough then they

day and they, in Pigott's words, "agreed to disagree". Hopkins has promised to fight the vote

which was seek to cear out are; standing committee members, must take the opportunity at the including Ken Hopkins, the re- AGM to say something." Hopkins met Pigott on Tues-

ter to members he says: "Such the county's troubles on the former captain Alan Wells was followed by that of Richard work that is in progress, [and] put players and staff in a position of uncertainty."
However, Hopkins last night

insisted he would welcome fresh faces on the committee. "New blood is always a good thing," The resignation at the be-

bers to seven. A postal ballot last week saw the former captain Robin Marlar, Jim May, and Dick Holste elected and all three support Pigott. Of the four remaining. ginning of the month of the Hopkins, the vice-chairman chairman, Alan Caffyn, after he Alan Wadey and Frank Horan

had heaped blame for much of are all opposed to the rebels,

ager, John Barelay, is said to be undecided. Informed sources, however, expect him to come out against Pigott.

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When asked if Sussex needed a revolution on top of everything else that has happened in the last year. Pigott replied: "Did Surrey need one two years' ago? The answer is 'Yes'. In Surrey's case the members stood up and were counted. It happen at Sussex."

The fact that the club have made a profit in each of the last 10 seasons is clearly not a factor. It is the departure of tal-ented players. I was sad more than surprised," he said. "I've seen it happen before in 1985. 1986 and 1987, then they lost seven or eight capped players. Sadly it has been allowed to

happen again."

Of the six capped players to leave. Ed Giddins was dismissed after being banned by the Test and County Cricket was amazing how quickly things turned around after that and I Board for testing positive for co-caine. Jamie Hall was released. Board for testing positive for co-I METABLE OF TROUBLE FOR SUSSEX ON AND OFF THE

Sect Wells as contain on his return from er when Lord's find in player's favour. Tony Pigott steps in and makes first property for the Moores appointed. Sign leg spinner Amer Khan. Industry to marshall membership for revolutions. Notice the Control of Moores, and Moores lason Lewy discovered to have long term stress fracture of the back.

March: Sign pace bowler Mark Robinson from Yorkshire. term stress fracture of the back.
Sign Martin Thursfield from Hampshire. Caffyn resigns.

Announce proint for 10th successive sea-son. Signs.

Sam set for 8 April.

Sam set for 8 April.

Robin Mariar, Jim May, Dick Holste elect-ings the reason so many players left.

ed to committee by postal wote.

helieve the same thing could while Wells, lan Salisbury, Danny Law and Speight left for varied reasons.

Hopkins' view is that the departures were due in part to a lack of confidence between the players and the captain. Wells.

I do not subscribe to the view that it is all the captain's fault," he said, "but when you don't play as well as you should you don't win things and that is

when things start to go wrong."
Pigott wants to put it right. "I don't believe the communication is very good at Hove, nor the man management. You can push Sussex forward if everyone is working together."
Pigott insists there would be

no impetuous moves on the player front. I don't know about the quality of the playing staff," he said, "but the new committee would not go in and get rid of people. The last thing we need is to lose any more players. It will be like moving house; you don't immediately dig up the garden, you wan to

guides **W** Indies to safety

reports from Port of Spain West Indies 296 & 255-4 India 436

Stuart Williams led the West Indies to safety and then completed his maiden Test hundred as the second Test against India drifted towards a draw on the final day vesterday. Trailing by 140 the West Indies had virtually reached certain comfort at 118 for 1 overnight and advanced to 255 for 4 a quarter of an hour before tea.

Williams, 63 when play began. arrived at his landmark with an edged leg glance off the fast howler Abey Kuruvilla two balls before lunch. He had taken five hours 55 minutes of diligent application getting there and. with the outcome of the match all but settled, lost patience and skied a catch to long-on off the left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi. He had been in for seven and a half hours without making an error. He added 176 for the second wicket with Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who made 79.

Chanderpaul's departure made way for Brian Lara, but the Prince of Port of Spain took over an hour and 57 balls to scratch 19 and then was caught at slip by a fizzing, bouncing topspinner from Anil Kumble.

Final dat. N.ext Indies won tass WEST INDIES - First trainings 296 - R I Hold-er 91: A kumble 5-1041. INDIA - First trainings 436 (N S Sidhu 201, R S Drand 57, S P Tendulkar 88; C E L Am-brose 5-87.

Illingworth must mind his own business

Raymond Illingworth, the former chairman of England selectors, has been told not to interfere in the present selec-tors' business as they choose the man to captain England against Australia this summer.

The three selectors, David Graveney, Mike Gatting and Graham Gooch, will select a weeks, with Mike Atherton the strong favourite. However, that has not prevented Illingworth from telling his successor. Graveney, to dispense with Atherton's services for the oneday internationals before the Ashes, Illingworth believes England side has "never been truly convincing", and that he should be replaced by Nasser Hussain, vice-captain on the winter tour, or Adam Holliouke, the A team skipper.

That advice brought an immediate rebuke from Gravency, who said: "Ray's got his view and I respect that. He's made a great contribution, but now the three of us have been uppointed and it is up to us to find what is the right course to take.

Henman poised to carry off his own Brit award

cars takes place tonight at the Jackie Gleason Theatre, Miami Beach, Tim Henman's nomination will provide further evidence that there is colour in the cheeks of the English patient.

Whether or not the 22-yearold from Oxford outscores his rivals for the ATP Tour's Most Improved Player of the Year Award for 1996, Felix Mantilla, of Spain, and the American Alex O'Brien, the Lawn Tennis Association can take encour-The ceremonies are being

held on the eve of the Lipton Championships across the bay at Key Biscayne. Not long ago it would have been a treat to see the name of a British player in a main draw, never mind seeded and shortlisted to be honoured by his peers. .

It is the first occasion that the men's ATP Tour and the women's WTA Tour have held a joint awards gala, and it will make a pleasant change to hear praise for a British competitor prior to the traditional opening

tend to do rather well. Their ford has won his first ATP Tour number includes John McEnroe (1978), Ivan Lendi (1981), Boris Becker (1985), Andre Agassi (1988), Michael Chang (1989) Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the re-

John Roberts reports from Key Biscayne on tennis's answer to the Oscars

Grand Slam singles title at the French Open last June. Thomas Enqvist, winner of the award for 1995, performed heroically for Sweden even though his country were defeated by France, 3-2, in a breathtakingly exciting Davis Cup final last December

However, any urge to scream the British are coming!" should be suppressed. It might be premature and potentially embarrassing, especially with so many Waterford Crystal trophies on display.

Pete Sammas, for example,
will be presented with a fourth

consecutive ATP Tour Player of the Year Award as the world No 1 and will also receive an ATP Tour Milestone Award to mark his 40th title (he is now only three short of the 50th). Henman has continued to

build on the progress he made last year, the highlight of which was an appearance in the Wimwinners of the ATP Tour's bledon quarter-finals. So far in singles title, in Sydney, finished runner-up in two others, in Doha and Antwerp, and has achieved and Pete Sampras (1990). (he is currently No 16). jury and a virus infection sub-Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the re- "When I played Hemman a sequently put Rusedski on the (with Helena Sukova).

cipient for 1994, went on to be-come the first Russian to win a don," Sampras recalled, "I don," Sampras recalled, "I thought he had a very solid game. He just needed to fill out

a little bit physically and get a lit-tle stronger. He's obviously done that. He's serving a lot harder. "He's got a game that reminds me a lot of Edberg - real nice backhand, moves very well, has a good head on his shoulders. The way he's playing, it seems like he's going to be around for a lot of years."

Greg Rosedski, inspired - or spurred - by Henman's success, raised his game and advanced to successive finals, losing controversially to Goran Ivanisevic in Zagreb and retiring hurt in San Jose after winning the opening set against Sampras, having defeated Chang and Andre Agassi back-to-back.

"Greg's game has been steadily improving," Chang said. "He relies so much on his serve. I think that on particular days, when he's serving extremely well, he's going to be very, very dan-

burg, but yesterday was forced to pull out of the event after aggravating his wrist and may be doubtful for Britain's Davis Cup match against Zimbabwe at Crystal Palace next month. He is currently ranked No 37. A swollen right elbow caused Henman to miss last week's tournament at Indian Wells, California, but he is back for the Lipton. "Tennis in England, I think, is

tion indoors in Europe this

week, competing at St Peters-

going to be very bright," Sampras said, adding a proviso. "There's a lot of things that those two guys, especially Henman, has to deal with, and that's the media, the expectations. Now he's coming up, he's going out with nothing to lose. There's going to come a time when people are going to expect him to win." Steffi Graf's three Grand Slam titles (the French, Wimbledon and United States

championships) virtually guarantee her an eighth WTA Tour Player of the Year Award. The only other nomination in

this category is Martina Hingis, the Swiss 16-year-old who will players, and on days when he world No I when she overtakes doesn't serve very well he's go- the injured Graf on 31 March. ing to struggle a little bit. So that's Hingis is one of three finalists really the backbone of his game." for two other awards. Most his highest world ranking. No 14 The combination of a wrist in Improved Player of the Year jury and a virus infection sub- and Doubles Team of the Year

Mansell loses none of his old drive



Edwards prepares to take on the world

STUART ALEXANDER

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Bowle

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A triple challenge in a giant twin-hulled catamaran saw the return of Tracy Edwards to high-profile sailing yesterday. Backed by a £4.25m sponsorship package from Royal & Sun Alliance, the former skipper of the

NBA: Boson 126 Minamare 117; Atlanta 112 Criscol 107 (cd; Main 114 Charlotte 93; Clea-ture 65 Detrof 82; Massingers 119 San Amo-no 85; IA Laight 113 Denver 94; Phomes 116

INCHANGE WOMEN'S SHOOCK CHAMPIONSHIPS
(Parts, Microstopy: Shaples fineth Hozel to Nich-later 27.15; Paint Shaple Engines by Wisses 29-10. Tables Shapl Waters by Inchange 18-17 series extra and, Pater Shapl Waters by Scotlardo 18-17. WOMEN'S HORKE INTERNATIONAL BROOK CHAMPIONSHIP (Partit): Scotland IX Instant 133-

Graciano Rocchigiani, of Germany, rest-ed postine for the beaned stroutent ephedrine when he jost to his compa-tion Danial Replacement in a World Box-ing Commission Section and Section 19

Shert Life has agreed to return to Es-set providing he is not included in Aus-tralia's signed to four England.

YOU NOTITED has resigned as chief ex-ecutive of Laloesterships and will beard

May on a west-east trans-Atlamic record and then, at the end of July, on the Round

Britain and Ireland record.

But all that is merely a pipeopener for the main event, a tilt days 22hr 17min 22sec in 1994 early next January at the Jules in the 92ft Enza. Now, after a Vernes Trophy for the fastest,

eon, 1. Nicesner, A.A. Domaki, P.R. Adense, P.L. Sym-con, S. N. Schultz.

the Antarctic. The boat she has chosen already holds that record. Sir Peter Blake and Sir Robin Knox-Johnston set a time of 74

The boat she has chosen already holds that record. Sir Peter Blake and Sir Robin Knox-Johnston set a time of 74

Division: Crocton 1. Berton O. Third Division: Tring 2 Fizchaed Heeth 1. Jourson Wessess Longue: Procised Heeth 1. Brockerhust C. Whistonised Root Lengths: Worker's C Starten 2. Prottins Lengths: Worker's C Starten 2. Prottins Lengths Prentier Division: Duty 4 Liverpool C; Danton 3. Spain 1, Wendhouts Unit 9 Emmigram 1. Secund Division: Extractive 2. Brandord Cry 2. Stockport 1. Symmetry 3. Avon Insurance Combination First Division: Creding 1. Swindord 2. Queen's Park Rangers 0 Winthibton 1. Spanisht Lengths: Real Stockport 0. Heath Macrid C. Landing prestitions: 1 Real Medical C. Landing prestitions: 1 Real Medical C. Landing Division: Credit C. Landing Division: Credit C. Landing Division: Conference C. Barrier C.

Whithread yacht Maiden will non-stop circumnavigation of direction of one of the members again use an all-woman crew, the world, the route going down of that Enza crew, Ed Danby. first to make an attempt in late and up the Atlantic and round Edwards hopes to clip two days off the record.

be restored in six weeks following its battering with a brick hamrefitting programme under the mer by a protester in Auckland.

by and W Deloy for J Nay and M Savony & & 4; S Roberts and C Cocombes to 8 Jambers and W Ferror 2 & 1; A Good and R Summersociales for Migran and R Actams 3 & 2; L Weblass and R Ferrorick for R Mistra and C Userands 1 & 3; J Henry and M Mistra in C Hones and R Dewes two holes: M Roberts and I Campball for P Early and D Monethers and I Campball for P Early and D Monethers and I Campball for P Early and D Monether 2 & 1; J Donaldson and N Euros for R Winchester and M Notetices or notice; I Feding and M Deal bit R Duck and M Mistra or not be seen to the LT Feding and May be and P Smith bit J Jentone and P Garrer 2 & 1; R Lesss and A Rosenfield for Netherlands and C Lingscraphe one hole; R Winchester and C Lingscraphe one hole; R Winchester and D Burrer 2 & 1; R Lesss and A Rosenfield for Netherlands and C Lingscraphe one hole; R Winchester and D Burrer 2 & 1; R Lesss and M Rosenfield for Netherlands and C Lingscraphe one hole; R Winchester and P Stackethy and S Dett or I Minchester and A Bacterine 3 & 2; R Rosenfield M Machanism and P Stackethy and D Read 4 & 3; J Challen S A Resenfield M Mistra 1 & 1 Challen S A Resenfield M Gare to I Mount and G D Holester of Mill and K Will with C J Lessen and M Thompson by A Macketrone and P Additional and S Lings 1 & 1 Challen S A Resenfield M Gare to I Mount A & 3; J Challen S I Melands and M Mount A & 3; J Challen S I Melands and M Macket B A S & 1 Challen S I S Marrey and C Lings by I A Roberts and M P Mistra 1 & 1 Roberts in State of the Mistra 2 & 1 Challen S B A S & 1 Mistra 2 & 1 Challen S B A S & 1 Mistra 2 & 1 Challen S B A S & 1 Mistra 2 & 1 Challen S B A S & 1 Mistra 3 & 1 Challen S B A S & 1 Mistra 3 & 1 Challen S & 1 Mistra 4 & 1 Challen S & 1 Mistra 4 & 1 Challen S & 1 Mistra 4 & 1 Challen S & 1 M SUNMINGUALE FOURISCORES (GE or int unions stated) First research. T Eakin and A Rodgers to M Hamilton, and J Rochie 3 & 2.5 Geneth and W Riley (Aus) to J Rochie 3 & 2.5 Geneth and W Riley (Aus) to J Inches and T Deten 2 & 1,0 Heat and R Watts by M Advirus-Heinber and S Bagley 3 & 2.7 T-Chenties and D Crariton for G Long and N Williams or the 19th hole. J Earl and I Dryden to J Jornal and A Peacetr 4 & 3.5 Robinson and E Daggety to M McGluse and S Burner 1 hole; D Grifts and A Proyect to G Toubest mrs J Lessor 1 hole; D Grifts and A Proyect to G Toubest mrs J Lessor 1 hole; D Grifts and A Proyect to G Toubest mrs J Lessor 1 hole; D Grifts and A Proyect to G Toubest mrs J Lessor 1 hole; D Grifts and A Proyect to G Toubest mrs J Lessor 1 hole; D Galley Lessor 1 hole; D Grifts and C S Lessor and F Fiches and S J Putt and N Marrach I have been and T Commoly and S Edwards who have the first to Commoly and S Edwards who have the first to Commoly and S Edwards who have the C Touber one hole; A Clock and N Lessor to M Hampton and S Malmarkey to R Weighten and S Malmarkey to R Weighten and S Commoly and N Dessor 1 hole; A Clock one hole; P planer and G Walerston to K C Marrach and S Malmarkey to R Weighten and N A Doube 3 & 2.9 Hours and R Holes and W Lessor to A Georgia and P Dessor 5 & 4.5 R Hous and V Lessor to K C California and N Hampton M Huggeston one hole; M Seaffe and J Polaritier to B Poters and K Melsaal 3 & 2.0 Desiration of the California one hole; M Seaffe and J Polaritier to B Poters and K Melsaal 3 & 2.0 Desiration of the California one hole; M Seaffe and J Polaritier to B Poters and K Melsaal 3 & 2.0 Desiration one hole; M Seaffe and J Polaritier to B Poters and K Melsaal 3 & 2.0 Desiration one hole; M Seaffe and J Polaritier to B Poters and K Melsaal 3 & 2.0 Desiration one hole; M Seaffe and J Polaritier to B Poters and K Melsaal 3 & 2.0 Desiration one hole; M Seaffe and J Polaritier to B Poters and K Melsaal 3 & 2.0 Desiration one hole; M Seaffe and J Polaritier to B Poters and K Melsaal 3 & 2.0 Desira

and 1; D Hudspoth and J Carter tot B Curton and G Brown 2 and 1; S Winfilm and J Jones ht A McLean and K Miller 2 and 1; L Owens and B McGovern ot R Huster and G Lactored at 13th; I Rose and T Manwork tot J Bennets and H Stoty at 23rd; T Stevens and J Lamb to P Abbasher and B Harva at 13th; T Stevens and J Lamb to P Abbasher and B Harva at 13th; T Ellis and M Nayton in 9 Where and G Shotsenston ore hole; M Roseman and N Harson to P Shoth and G Gotton 3 and 1; K Manwool and A Lomstone by S Moon and Howeson 4 and 3; S Geap and T Allen by h Bayless and M Hughes 3 and 2. L LONGSHOT PROMAI (San Laverum, Algerral Frastreand scores: ST C General (San Longer, Tot G Rothe (Laucerume). M Bestimm furrattacted), 72. N Brown (Mal Hess), R Deberron (Bentalad County, 73 I Baskey (Longerife). Teams 127 W Longerum: 134 M Belsham, 135 N Brown.

Hockey

The International Hockey Federation has announced that from 1 September the game will be extended for the completion of a penalty comer awarded before the normal and of time at half-time and at full-time. Inits change will bring the out-door game in line with the undoor rules. GRIDEN JURIESE TOURNAMENT (Marschit; Astrala 1 Carmany 2: Paidson 3 Nethorisms, 5 Standings pather two rounding: 1 Cerman, 6 co.; 2 Netherlands 4; 3 Paisson 2: 4 England 1: 5 Australao I. AENHA CIUP Quarter-finat draws Culton v Con-sorting, Slough v pasach; Higmown v Aldricos, Don-caster v Sutton Coltheid, 1 lies to be played on Sunday 6 April).

ice hockey ice skating

world champtonestips (Loussanne, Switt) lee denne (affair two computisorites): Leading po-sitiones: 10 Ginschus and E Pieco, (Pass (U. 4 tz., med placements; 2 A hydron and 0 Ossarinko, (Pass) (U. 8, 3 St. Bourne and V Insart (Part 1.1), 4 m S Morrorite and P Loussanty (Fr. 1.8, M Arassi-ment C. Doment (Fr. 1.8, E. F. Brackin) and (Fr.

Rugby Union China was welcomed as the 76th member of the International Rugby Foothall Broad assets.

ton (Fr. 1-10.05, Selected: 8 A Freshages dur-crae), 1-10 42-12 F Model (Sanough) 1-10 85: 15 G Berl (Hent.); 1-11.105, Women's downblit: 1.5 Omend - Gend Borrand) 1-115-50; 2 N Ter-ar (Sloven 1-15-97, 3 T Per Albertoen 110-44, Selected: 6 5 Robertool Albertoen 1-17-26, 8 F Mode (York) 1-18-35.

BENSON AND HEDGES IRISH MASTERS (Co Kildare) First round: J White (Eng.) of A McMorus (Sco) 6-3

SUBBO
SPENIC BRAND TOURNAMENT (Books, Japan)
10th day of 15: Gooro (won 5, lost 5) bit Ognotions (6-4): Homanoshmis (5-5) of Rivo (4-6). Devhot (5-5) bit Millocum (6-4): Assnowolds
(4-6) bit Mesugsam (3-7): Shieshmis (5-5) bit Totanovolds (6-4): Openshin (6-4) bit (6-4); Commis (6-4): Tomato
(6-4) bit Mesugham (4-6): Deyma (8-4): Deyma
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(6-6): Millocum
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Around the resorts

Table tennis REMUTE LESTIFIED

REGIONS SQUARES (World Championestips, Manchester, 24 April-5 Mayer Morr M Synd (Berto, C Prean Horn A Cooke (Decryot, A Porty Decryot, B Ellington (Bertos, Lindovidan) events only: T Young (Bertis, A Boert (Lones, D Blake Survy, Womens L Lones, Beets, A Rost (Lones, N Douton (Dertysture, H Lower (Sartis, I, Radford (Sevies, I, Individual events only; & Schwertz (Bertis), I, Thornton (Lances, T Donies (Essen), S Romenta (Series)

SNOW REPORT - in association with Thomas Cook Ski Direct

- Junisian-ham, SJ, Hueng Che-mong SQ, Cheul Wels-jan 77) Bangadesh 1 Ghana SS). Istonasov S Lutte INSULTE: GBI Visuchel Langest-technistics 1 Keldamminster 43 Northwesh 2 Hall-ton 2-Steatinsigh 2 Altunchem 1. Bears ECLIVE Of LISOGERESTING STAD VIN CORP.

STORE Flood at the end of May.

SOUTH AFFICE ACQUID & Australia, third and final Test, Post Emaketh, starting Friday's W.

C Context County of Neuron, A M Baches, Jif Make, D. J. Camer, H. F. Cabo, B. M. McMarn, D. J. Rockett. WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS FORECAST

FA Casting Premierably

1 Backtum v Ason-Villa

2 County v Vest Ham

3 Derby v Tattechem

4 Exprise v Manchener I ward 26 Notes County v Stockport ... ustray v Rotherham

& Sunderland & Nothingham Forest. Playing Sunday, Wimbledon v Newcosto. Playing Monday, Argenal v Liverpool.
Medicarvida, Football Langua. Nationwide Football Longit First Division: 9 Birmsylem v Shaffeld United 10 Bradford City v Wolves. 11 Geneby v Barriers 12 Hoodersteld v Bernely 12 Morantestic City v Store 14 Borech v Botton 15 Pod Vide v Sagnion AG SCACOGOUGH V EXERT

16 GPR v Partyments
12 Reading whereit
12 Reading whereit
12 Southern's Ordert (Tribed
12 Wast Book v Charles
Playing Southers Organia Peter Secured Districts
20 Backgood & Bristol Coy
21 Boston Wood W. John

22 Bury v Chesterfield .

Playing Priday: Luton v Brentiord. Playing Sanday: Bristol Rovers v Preston. Third Division 28 Hull v Certisio

38 Токолеу и Ѕолимогре 39 Wigen v Barnet ... Playing Friday: Colchester v Richdale; Doncaster y Hareford. Beil's Scottish League Premier Division so Contro United v March

42 Hibernian v Aberdeen 43 Motherweil v Hearts ... 44 Rangers v Klimamock First Division 45 Cłydebank v Dundee 46 Fallock v East File

48 St Johnstone v Stirling Albion 49 St Mirreri v Agdrie Also playing (not on coupons): Second Division: Ayr Url v Dumbarton, Bernick Rangers v Brechin City, Clyde v Llyingston, Harmfron Accentical v Stenhousemum. Queen of the South v Branner. Third Division: Arburath v Inverness Caledonian Thistle, Cowdenbeath v Forter Athletic. Montrose v Albion Rovers, Queen's Park v Alica, Ross County v East Stiftingshire.

Four draws: Eventon v Manchester United, Birmingham City v Sheffield United, Hull City v Carlisie United, St Marten v Ar-

Football Football
7.30 unless stated
EUROPEAN CUP QUARTER-FINALS SECOND LES
Atletico Machit (1) v Ajax (1)
Porto (0) v Alamethe Devinnent (3)
Porto (0) v Alamethester Uni (4)
Amentus (1) v Rosenborg Trongladem (1)
FA CARLING PERMETERS P
Chalses v Southempton (7.45)
Lalcester v Tettanham (7.45)
Bibliobarhough v Blockform (7.45)
Bibliobarhough v Blockform (7.45)
Dev BURTERS LEAGUE Pennier Division: Sale-buy v Bedacher (7.45). Sectional Division: Corby v Bedacher (7.45). Sectional Division: Salebuy v Bedacher (7.45). Sectional Division: Salebuy v Bedacher (7.45). Sectional Division: Salelugance Exament v Clevelin.

VERSION LEAGUE Transfer Division: SaleLeague League Transfer SaleLeague Transfer Sale-

BOND LENGUE First Division: Droyleden v Get-UNBOND LENGISE First Diskulant Drayloden v Gret-ne, President's Cap send-first second lag? For-ley Cable: (b) v Runcom (fig.). SCREWFR/DREET LENGISE Presider Diskulant Bro-gory v Chart, Westbury v Caire (7.45). JENSON EASTERN LENGISE Presider Diskulant 7.45): Schem v Helstand; Stoumerlest v Tromer, Sudjuly Tour v Relations: Websch v Wertoys. SOOTS.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Divisions Sheffeld v Oxeel Albion.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Divisions England Herst Divisions England Researchie v Circheroc.

URMET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Divisions

Three Briggs v Acundol. FEDERATION . BREWERY MORTHERN LEAGUE First Deaslose Museus v Whosy. Farge Diseases sustain v swippy.
LEAGUE OF WALES CROSS Langue Cup comi-fi-nal first lags Ton Pontes v Barry.
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TODAY'S FIXTURES Int Websell: Port Velo v Husdersfeld (7 D): Sun-derland v Walver (7 D) (at Durham Cyd. Second Der 77 De Hulle Barnaley (7 D): Stockers v Street Der 77 De Hulle Barnaley (7 D): Stockers v Street Land (6 D): Weesham v Bernaley (7 D): Stockers v Street Hunderster Cay (7 D): Third biselione Darington v Landon (7 D): Sociationsoft v Bary (7 D): Rootstall v Weesha (7 D): Sociationsoft v Chesteried (7 D): Sociationsoft v Crester (7 D): Author Dessire (7 D): Sociation v Constitution v Con Rugby Union

WELSH MATIONAL LEAGUE Second Division: Cross Keys v Bothmaen (7.0); LRVC v Adeleron (7.0). USA Final: Brunel University College v Loughbor-uch University (3.0) (or Fathermann). RUDUKEISER LEAGUE: Styffets Starts v London ice kockey PREMIER LEAGUE Play-offs: Kingston Howis & Building Plannes (8.0). Speedway

CHALLENGE: Hull v Newcastle (7, 30). Other sports **BOWES:** Women's Home Interessional Champ-oratios (Periff).

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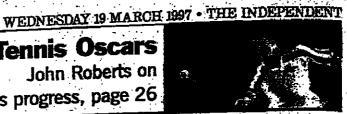
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Premiership clubs join queue for Klinsmann

NICK DUXBURY

English clubs were licking their lips yesterday at the prospect of Jürgen Klinsmann ending his career back in the Premier-

is to give up his lucrative contract at Bayern Munich after talks with the club's chairman.

probably play abroad next season," the 32-year-old German international said. "I don't fit in here. I wanted to tell Bayern now so that they can plan for the future. There are many reasons [why I am leaving] and I have decided to act."

As well as interest here, clubs The former Tottenham Hot- in Spain and Italy will also be spur striker announced that he on the alert and there is the possibility that his swan-song could be played out in the United

Klinsmann, who captained

turned to his homeland in 1995 after a successful spell with Spurs during which he was voted England's Footballer of the Year and was a hugely popular figure with the fans.

He complained earlier in the season that he was unhappy with Bayern's defensive tactics and the way he had been treated when his form dipped. He has often been at odds with the charge of the national team and

European Championship, re- has found it difficult to cope with the squabbling which is part of everyday life at Bayern.

It was obvious that the whole ballyhoo in Munich got on Jurgen's nerves," the Bayern general manager, Uli Hoeness, said. "He has said that himself many times."

Queen's Park Rangers are ready to report Sampdoria to the governing body of world football, Fifa, over their free transclub's captain, Lothar fer signing of Danny Dichio. The Matthaus, his predecessor in striker will sign a three-year contract when his current deal ex-

pires at the end of the season. Players are allowed to arrange a move six months before a contract ends, but Rangers claim that Sampdoria broke the rules by not informing them that ne-

gotiations were in progress.

Tony Yeboah will be fined a formight's pay for apping off his Leeds United shirt and throwing it at his manager, George Graham, after being substituted during Saturday's defeat at

"George will be disciplining him with a fine which is ex-

pected to be around two weeks' wages," the club's secretary, Nigel Pleasants, said yesterday. He declined to say how much Yeboah was paid.

Arsenal have signed the 19year-old keeper Alexander Manninger from the Austrian club Casino Graz after a twoday trial at Highbury. The fee is believed to be around £500,000. The Leicester keeper Kasey

Keiler could lose his Coca-Cola Cup final place because of his World Cup commitments with the United States. Keller,

who was unavailable for last Sat-urday's game with Middles brough, is also ruled out of today's home match with Totenham and the weekend encounter at Southampton. The Bournemouth keeper, Ian Andrews, has been signed on loan

for a month as cover for Keller. The Football Association has dismissed reports that negotiations aimed at ending the damaging feud between Peter

Schmeichei and Ian Wright have broken down. It has been claimed that le-

gal advisors acting on behalf of Schmeichel had informed the FA that the Manchester United goalkteper had rejected the offer of a reconciliatory meeting with the Arsenal striker Wright.

An FA spokesman, Steve Double, insisted that the coment of negotiations remained confidential, but added: "We don't accept that Peter Schmeichel has snubbed the peace offer." Schmeichel has rejected accusations of racism after clashing

"I told him that I would Germany to victory at last year's Di Canio banned for derby incident

Paolo Di Canio of Celtic has fer stories, with reports in Glasbeen given a one-match ban following incidents after the Old Firm game on Sunday. The Italian was given the punishment by the Scottish Football Association, who acted on referee Hugh Dallas' report into

the game with Rangers. Di Canio was shown the yellow card after he squared up to lan Ferguson following the final whistle at Parkhead, which technically added up to a sending-off for the former Milan player, after an earlier booking

during the game. Di Canio, likely to be fined £12.000 in wages by Celtic, will have to sit on the sidelines for Saturday's League match with Dunfermline at East End Park.

An inquiry into the events at Parkhead looks set to be ordered by the chief executive of the SFA. Jim Farry, and the likelihood is that Di Canio, Mark Hateley, the Rangers striker Old Trafford last Easter, and Hateley, the Rangers striker who was sent off for a head-butt. and possibly the managers of both teams could be called to appear before the SFA's next disciplinary committee.

An SFA snokesman said: "Di Canio was mentioned in the referee's report for having committed an offence which was the equivalent of a caution. Since he also received one during the match, the player is automatically suspended from the next

Meanwhile, Tommy Burns, the Celtic manager, has dis-missed speculation Di Canio is ready to leave Glasgow and move to the Premiership. "This is absolute rubbish," Burns said. Paolo is under contract and has never said anything, other than how much it means to him to be

Rangers have also been

gow claiming the Ibrox club are ready to bring back their former striker Duncan Ferguson from Everton.

The controversial Scotland international was sold to Goodison Park over two years ago for £4.5m. but Everton's manager Joe Royle has apparently become disillusioned with the injury-prone striker, who has scored only nine times this season. However, Ferguson's last spell in Glasgow ended with him receiving a jail sentence for his behaviour on and off the pitch and it is debatable whether he would want to return.

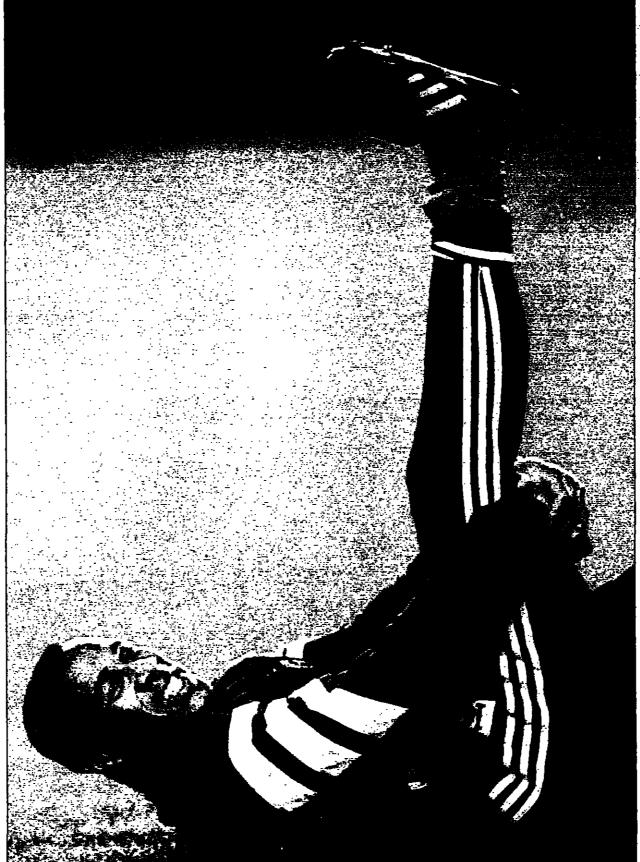
South of the border, David Busst, the Coventry defender whose career was ended a year ago by injury, has been assured of a good benefit match by Manchester United.

Busst suffered horrific leg in-Alex Ferguson, the United manager, has agreed to send a United side to play a Coventry City XI in a benefit at Highfield Road on 16 May.

Paul Gascoigne have agreed to play and the England manager, Glenn Hoddle, will also take

Busst, who has undergone 15 operations on his leg, had to announce his retirement from the game on medical grounds. He expects a full-house 23,500 at Highfield Road for the game.

Busst's agent, Murdo Mackav. said: "We have had so many offers from top players that we could almost field 50-a-side. A lot of people were affected by David's injury, but they all respect the way he has handled it. We want to make it a night for caught up in a flurry of trans- him to remember.



Despite training with Newcastle in Monte Carlo, Les Ferdinand failed a late fitness test for last night's Uefa Cup match against Monaco. The French league side held a 1-0 lead from the first leg Photograph: Owen Humphreys/PA

Boro begin countdown to survival

crucial eight-day survival period on and off the field when they take on Blackburn at the Riverside Stadium tonight.

Middlesbrough, who could move off the bottom if Southampton slip up at Chelsea, follow up with further home games against Cheisea on Sat-urday and Nottingham Forest on Monday.

Two days later they face a Football Association appeal panel in the hope of winning back the three points deducted for their failure to fulfil their away date with Blackburn earlier in the season.

The significance of the next few days is not lost on their manager, Bryan Robson. He said:
"The next three games could shape the rest of the season for us. We, like Blackburn, have improved since the turn of the year. Top quality players were missing at one stage, but they have made a difference on their

"They have risen to the challenge. Now we have to build on that. The confidence amongthe players is sky high and the lads are buoyant, but they will have to work hard."

Following 6-1 and 3-1 wins over Derby and Leicester respectively, Boro are looking for a third straight win for the first time since September and are boosted by the news Gianluca Festa, Nigel Pearson, Fabrizio Ravanelli and Emerson are

food poisoning. Blackburn will have their leading scorer Chris Sutton available again after a fivematch injury absence. Their caretaker manager, Tony Parkes, must decide whether to break up the Per Pedersen-Kevin Gallacher partnershipwhich has produced six goals in

Second from bottom South-1 ampton can forget any hope of a helping hand from the EA Cup semi-finalists Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, according to mid-

fielder Craig Buriey. Chelsea are going flat out to secure a Uefa Cup place via the Premiership as an insurance against slipping up on the road to Wembley. Scott Minto is suspended

while Franck Leboeuf (thigh) and Andy Myers (shin) are injury doubts, but the former England defender Paul Parker is set to start his first game for the club after a 20-minute spell as a substitute in the 6-2 thrashing of Sunderland.

Southampton are without teh in-form Norwegian international defender Claus Lundekvam, who suffered a knee injury in the 2-0 home defeat by Arsenal Ken Monkou or Francis Benali will replace him, while Matthew Oakley and Ulrich van Gobbel are available after suspension.

Graeme Souness, the South-ampton manager who has set his side a survival target of five wins from the last nine games, admitted: "We have a hill to climb which is becoming a mountain. If the players are going to show they have the mettle, now is the time. We have our destiny in our own hands, and we have it all to

play for - starting with Chelsea." Jason Dozzell has set his sights on trying to win a new contract when his current fourin the summer.

Dozzell was the butt of the crowd's anger last week after squandering a golden chance against Forest, but he impressed in Saturday's win over Leeds. He is now waiting to see if he will retain his place as David Howells and Allan Nielsen are free from suspension for the match at Leicester.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

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29 Role of the fly in destruction of Erithacus rubecula DOWN

Still with no score, on is doomed to failure (4,4) High voices heard on Paris roundabout (7) It spins to produce a lot Not the front entrance to

the Savoy, say? (5-4) Adventure in the seventies (5) WI lass, a refined maker of toast? (7) picture (6)

Joint-advisor, we hear. got the solarium prepared (14)

Badly scared, Jersey pro-vided this venerated institution (6,3) Unattractive aspect of hvbrid fruit on head (8) Fruit gone off to Capri?

Repeat - to be well-20 read. Latin is not necessary (7) Where plank-walker goes finally, hort? (6) Vagrant to stop around river (5)

Mansell revelling in his move from grid to green

Having checked out of his hotel vesterday morning, the first thing Nigel Mansell had to do after completing his first-round match in the 56th Sunningdale Foursomes was find a room for the night. Mansell and his partner, the aptly named John Putt, will be teeing up again today af-ter beating the former Ryder Cup player Paul Way and Terry Crawley 3 and 2.

Mansell may have taken the advice of Michael King too lit-erally. "You'll get thrashed," the former Tour player, inevitably known as "Queenie", had said In fact, Mansell, who has a hand-icap of 26 at Woodbury Park, the course he owns near Exeter, had taken money off King and Sam Torrance in practice on Tuesday. A certain world No 1

was also involved in the build-up. "I spoke to Greg Norman on the phone last night and he just said to stay focused," Mansell explained. "He is a great motivator. Greg got me going in golf in the early Eighties and we have a very good friendship."

Mansell even played in the 1988 Australian Open at Royal Sydney before his Formula One world championship ambitions took over. Now, the reverse is true. "Unless someone gives me a car I can win in, I'm concentrating on golf this year. For the first time ever I'm free to play golf Andy Farrell sees

a former driver enjoy a foursomes win at Sunningdale

and I'm enjoying it. I am going to play as many events as I can."
This event is traditionally the start of the British season. bringing together an assorted collection of professionals and amateurs, both men and women. Mansell had chosen his partner well. Putt, a business consultant, is a Sunningdale member and was a professional when in 1973 he won the tournament, with Miss M Everard, beating two likely lads in Carl Mason and Howard Clark 6 and 5 in the final.

Under the sort of damp skies that three broken backs and a broken neck mean Mansell usually avoids by spending much of the winter in Florida and Spain, the first two holes were contrastingly halved in hirdies and double-bogeys. Mansell settled after missing a short putt at seven to hole from 20 at the next and then drove to the fringe at the short par-

Way found a bunker off that tee and then hit a horrid hook for his approach at the next to lose a third successive hole. He

may not have being playing quite as poorly as his former Ryder Cup partner Seve Ballesteros, but he looked every inch a man who has lost his Tour card and failed at the qualifying school. Still only 34, he is hoping to get a few invitations to tournaments. At least he has not lost his sponsor, Crawley, who

deals in futures in the city. Presuming that they did not have much of one the way things were going, Crawley holed from 25 and 15 feet to get back to one down after 13, but the end came when Mansell holed from five feet at the 16th. "To play 16 holes in level par is good golf," Way said of the victors. "Nigel played well. It was a good game."

I wasn't happy with the way I played, but I got it round," said Mansell, talking like a prototype golf pro. "Today was all about experience. I learnt a lot from watching how Queenie and Sam played the course yesterday - it is all course management.

The old drive is there, but swapping grid for green has clearly had a positive effect. "I can't believe how excited I get about golf. Ive mellowed a lot in the last four or five years. Since Ayrton [Senna] died at Imola, I've looked at the perspective of sport differently." Photograph, page 27

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And a beer to go



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